

This page is to support the viewing of two-page within the .pdf viewer.

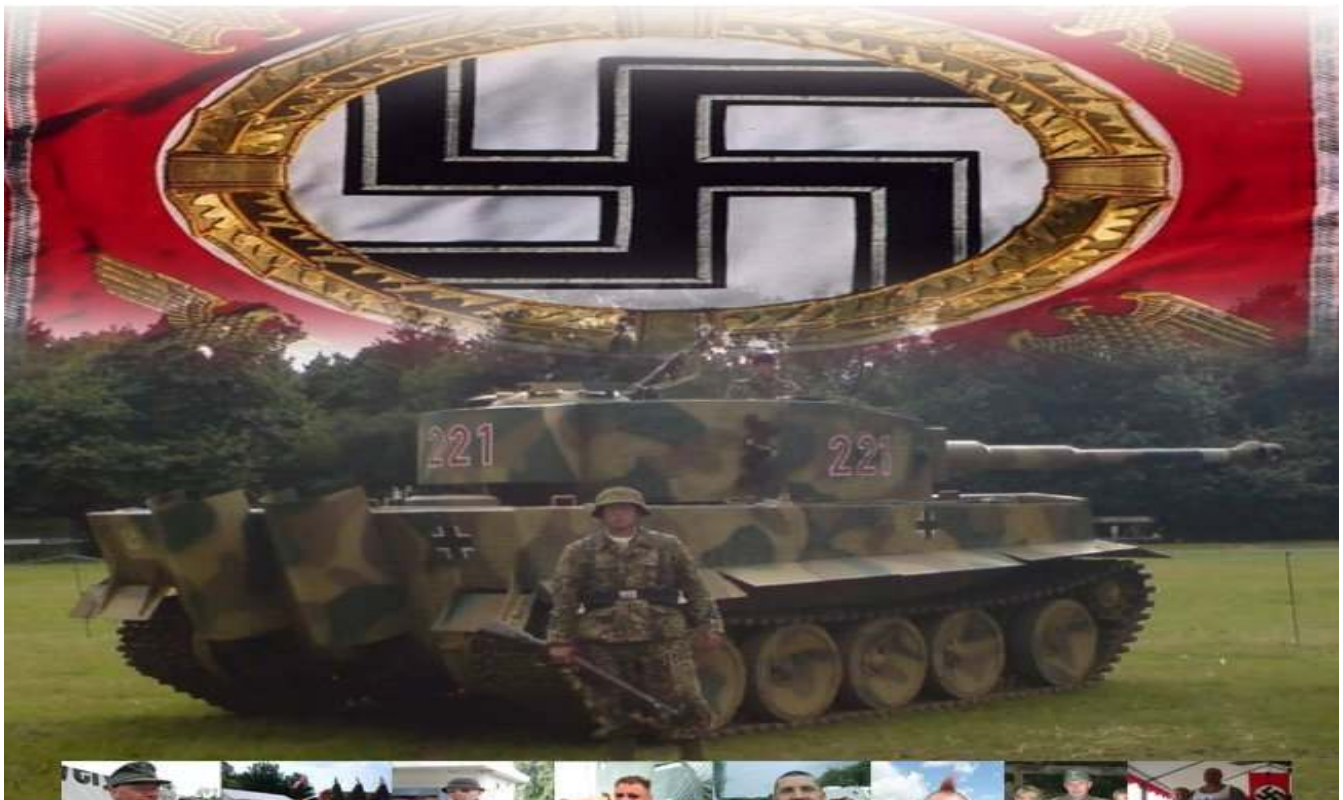
Originally published by Bright Star Publishing plc
Dalling Road, LONDON W6 0ES

Originally produced by Midsummer Books Ltd
Dalling Road, LONDON W6 0ES

This e-edition produced by
www.hitlersthirdreich.co.uk



Der Krieg und Frieden Show ²⁰¹¹ Die größte Militärfahrzeug spektakulärsten der Reich



WWW.WARANDPEACESHOW.CO.UK

CONTACT US ON THE WAR AND PEACE DIRECT LINE
TEL 0044 (0)1304-813945 FAX 0044 (0)1304-812422

SEE US AT THE HOP FARM – PADDOCK WOOD, KENT TN12 6PY

© MEB

HITLER'S

Third Reich

Volume
32

Monthly

Witness the terrible secrets of Germany's evil empire

Volkssturm
last ditch defenders

Liberation
end of the nightmare

Hitler
last days in the bunker

Battle for Berlin
taming the Nazi beast

Nuremberg
allied justice triumphant

£4.95 Monthly

ISSN 1464-1968



9 771464 196011

UK £2.95
IR £3.25
New Zealand \$9.95
South Africa R24.95

Singapore \$7.95
Malaysia Rgt 17.95
Malta Lm 1.95

HITLER'S

Third Reich

Volume 32 Contents

1

Secret Hitler Files

Last days in the bunker

6

Holocaust

Liberation

12

Inside the Third Reich

Volkssturm

16

Hitler's Henchmen

Nuremberg

28

Hitler's Battles 32

Battle of Berlin

36

Hitler's War Machine

Heinkel 111

44

Nazi Symbols

Party members

Publisher: Stan Morse
Editor: Adam Warner
Assistant editor: Alex Fawcett
Contributing editor: Chris Bishop
Designer: Simon Oliver
Illustrators: Simon Oliver, Chris Bishop
Photography: David Tosh
Writers: Adam Warner,

Chris Bishop,
Alex Fawcett
William Wilson,
Kurt Steiner,

Our thanks to Ulric of England
(PO Box 55, Church Stretton,
Shropshire SY6 6WR)
for allowing us to photograph items
from his extensive collection.

Picture acknowledgments

Cover: Aerospace Publishing; **1:** Popperfoto; **2:** AKG London; **3:** Topham Picturepoint, AKG; **4:** Süddeutscher Verlag (two), Aerospace; **5:** Aerospace, Popperfoto; **6:** Popperfoto; **7:** Süddeutscher, AKG; **8:** AKG, Aerospace; **9:** Aerospace (three), Popperfoto; **10:** Aerospace (three), AKG; **12:** Aerospace; **13:** Topham, Süddeutscher; **14:** Aerospace, Topham (two) AKG; **15:** AKG (three); **16:** Popper-

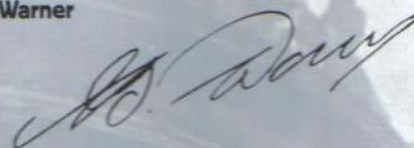
Dear Reader,

This is the final edition of Hitler's Third Reich. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has collaborated on the project, including designers past and present, contributing authors, the previous Editor of the work, Chris Bishop and the Publisher, Stan Morse and to thank you as the reader for continuing to support the product.

The finished part-work is a unique reference work running to some 1500 pages, containing much original copy and specially commissioned illustrations and around 4,000 photographs, extensively researched from the world's greatest archives and collections.

This publication has had to be produced with sensitivity and tact. If we have offended some with the nature of the material this has not been done with deliberate intent. I would just echo the mission statement of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, dedicated to the memory of those who perished under Nazi persecution - The World Must Know.

Adam Warner
Editor



Published monthly by
Bright Star Publishing plc
179, Dalling Road
London W6 0ES

©2001 Bright Star Publishing plc

Colour reproduction by
Catalyst Publishing, Leamington Spa

Printed in Italy by Officine Grafiche De Agostini

This publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form or by any means without the prior permission of Bright Star Publishing plc. All rights reserved. This publication may not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of trade at more than the recommended selling price shown on the cover, or in a mutilated condition

Back Numbers

You can order back numbers from your newsagent, or by writing to:
Woodgate Fulfillment
PO Box 130
Hastings
Sussex
TN35 4ZD

Each volume costs £2.95 Sterling (Ir£3.25)
Each volume including video series
costs £5.95 Sterling (Ir£6.75)

Credit card orders can be made by phone on
08707 270207

For wholesale trade distribution please contact COMAG Magazine Marketing on 01895 444055

Back numbers (Australia & NZ & South Africa) You can order your back numbers from your local newsagent, or by writing to one of the following addresses:

Australia: Midsummer Books Back Numbers (Dept.H), Gordon & Gotch Ltd, Private Bag 290, Burwood, VIC 3125. Telephone: (03) 9805 1887. Please enclose payment of cover price, plus \$ 1.50 per issue postage & handling. Cheques should be made payable to Gordon & Gotch Ltd.

New Zealand: Midsummer Books (Dept.H), Gordon & Gotch (NZ) Ltd, P.O. Box 584, Auckland. Telephone: 09 625 3018. Please enclose payment of cover price, plus \$ 1.50 per issue postage & handling. Cheques should be made payable to Gordon & Gotch Ltd.

South Africa: Midsummer Books (Dept.H), Private Bag 10, Centurion, 0046 Telephone: (011) 652 1835 Fax: (011) 314 2984 E-mail: service@jacklin.co.za (please make cheques payable to Midsummer Subscription Services)

ISSN 1464-1976 (with video)
ISSN 1464-1968 (without video)

foto; **17:** AKG (two); **18:** AKG (three); **19:** Popperfoto, Süddeutscher; **20:** AKG (three); **21:** Aerospace (three), US Holocaust Memorial Museum; **22:** US National Archives, AKG; **23:** US National Archives, Süddeutscher (two), AKG; **24:** AKG, US National Archives; **25:** Süddeutscher (two), Popperfoto (two); **26:** Süddeutscher; **27:** Süddeutscher (three), AKG (two); **28-35:** Aerospace; **36-43:** Aerospace; **44-49:** Aerospace



THE LAST DAYS

The death of Germany's dictator retains a bizarre fascination. Hitler chose Berlin as his funeral pyre rather than live in defeat.

On 20 April 1945, Hitler emerged from the bunker for the final time to congratulate those brainwashed unfortunates who were still willing to die for him and his broken promises.



This painting by the Kukrynski Collective, dated 1947/48, depicts a fanciful view of the Berlin bunker as a Gothic horror story. Hitler may have shared this vision internally but did not betray such emotions on the surface.



A PALL OF SMOKE hung over Berlin as the heavily guarded train pulled into the city's main railway station. The smell of burning lingered in the cold January air, courtesy of British and American bombers. A fleet of armoured limousines were waiting to speed Adolf Hitler and his entourage to the Chancellery, the last journey he would ever make.

The Allied armies were closing in fast. To the west, the maps charted the collapse of Hitler's last great offensive, the 'Battle of the Bulge': superior numbers and Allied airpower reduced Germany's last tank divisions to a collection of burnt out hulks, scattered across the snowy fields. To the east, the maps showed a line of arrows heading directly for Berlin: two complete army groups – 13 armies totalling more than 1,250,000 Soviet soldiers – thirsting for revenge. They had already overrun East Prussia, slaughtering Nazi officials, looting everything that could be loaded on to the back of a tank. Now Hitler's soldiers were hurrying to surrender to

the British and Americans, anything to avoid capture by the Russians.

The big fear for German women was rape. Recruited from all over the vast lands of the USSR, the soldiers from the southern republics spoke barely adequate Russian, but they all knew the key phrase, 'Frau Kom!' It was the first thing they shouted when they burst into a house, machine-guns at the ready.

A PLACE OF GREATER SAFETY

The Allied air-raids were concentrating on the centre of Berlin. Hitler's security chief insisted the Nazi leadership move to a place of greater safety. On the afternoon of 16 January, Hitler walked down a roughly finished concrete staircase into a bunker underneath the government buildings. He had a hundred days left on this earth, but this was his last full day above it. He would live his last days by the harsh glare of artificial light, and to the sound of a diesel generator pumping air through his labyrinth, its monotonous hum eventually supplemented by the thunder of Russian guns.

The last photographs of Hitler alive were taken on his 56th birthday, 20 April 1945. He emerged from one of the tunnels into the Chancellery Garden where teenage soldiers from the Hitler Youth stood to attention. They were all orphans, bright-eyed 15 year olds who had destroyed Soviet tanks with crude rocket launchers. Hitler hobbled along the line, his face grey, right leg shaking uncontrollably, as he dispensed Iron Crosses. Then he shuffled below, retreating from daylight forever.

The city was about to be encircled. The Führer stated his intention to fight on in Berlin while his subordinates organised the defence of the Reich's ever-shrinking territory. *Reichsmarschall* Hermann Göring was sent south, pausing only to assemble a convoy of 14 cars loaded with looted art treasures before personally dynamiting his mansion, *Karinhall*. Goebbels' birthday broadcast to the nation promised victory if only the German people kept their faith with Hitler. *Reichsführer-SS* Heinrich Himmler said his goodbyes and drove out of Berlin

that night. He knew it was over: he was planning a peace overture to the Allies.

A few of the Nazi hierarchy were determined to stay. *Reichsleiter* Martin Bormann, described by Eva Braun as "an over-sexed toad" remained to finish his long-running feud with propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels. SS General Hermann Fegelein, the hard-drinking commander of the *SS Florian Geyer* cavalry division joined them to serve as Himmler's liaison officer. General Hans Krebs, Chief of the German General Staff presented twice-daily updates on the military situation. SS General Mohnke remained to command the defence of the Chancellery area itself: his *Kampfgruppe* included 18 Tiger tanks of *SS Schwerepanzerabteilung Adolf Hitler*, detachments from 1st SS panzer division *Leibstandarte* and a march battalion of French volunteers from *SS Division Charlemagne*.

Many of Hitler's followers urged him to fly to Berchtesgaden, his mountain retreat in southern Germany. Although he refused, he gave permission for an aerial evacuation coordinated by his personal pilot Hans Baur. Ten transport planes flew out of Berlin's Tempelhof airport on 22 April, taking to safety Martin Bormann's brother, Hitler's naval secretary, two of Hitler's female secretaries and many other staff. Nine aircraft made it to Munich, but one crashed in Bavaria, killing everyone on board.

UNEXPECTED GUESTS

This exodus coincided with some unexpected arrivals. Sentries were startled to hear the echo of children's laughter. Goebbels had dismissed his staff in the Propaganda Ministry that afternoon and appeared in the bunker with his wife and their six children. Magda had a small case and a spare dress. The children had been allowed one toy each.

"What can you do with a people whose men don't even fight when their women are raped?" Goebbels ranted to his staff before he moved his family underground. That same day, as General Krebs reported the failure of SS General Steiner's army to break through to Berlin, Hitler finally blurted out in public: "The war is lost!"

Now in Bavaria and believing Berlin to be cut off completely, Göring signalled his intent to take charge of the government. Bormann interpreted this as treachery. So did Hitler, who radioed nearby SS men to arrest his former comrade.

The Soviets cut the last road out of Berlin on Tuesday, 24 April. The following day, Soviet tanks clattered across the runway at Tempelhof airport and reached the fortified heart of the city. SS General Fegelein flew

INTO THE ABYSS



IN MID-APRIL 1945, JOSEPH GOEBBELS moved his wife, Magda and six of his children into the Berlin Bunker. None of them were to leave it alive.

Magda talked about her children to the noted test pilot Hanna Reitsch, saying "They belong to the Reich and the Führer, and if these two cease to exist there can be no place for them".

Hitler's suicide on 30 April signed the children's death warrant. They spent 1 May playing in the lower level of the bunker. Late in the afternoon, Magda gave them some chocolate laced with a sedative, saying they would be flown out that night. She put them to bed in their rooms in the upper bunker, brushed their hair and left them to sleep.

While her husband wrote his last diary entries ('on the meaning of sacrifice') Magda returned to the bedroom and killed her children one after the other, using cyanide capsules pushed into their mouths. A Soviet pathologist would examine the little bodies a week later: only Helga had woken in time to resist, and her body showed bruising.

Goebbels returned to the bunker to find his wife alone, chain-smoking and playing patience. She abandoned the cards, took his arm and they walked up the stairs and into the garden. SS men shot them both in the back of the head and burned their bodies too.

Above: Goebbels had seven children from his unhappy marriage with Magda. When Speer visited the bunker he was horrified to see the children there – knowing what it signified. Speer had ensured that his own wife and children reached American lines.

Below: The contorted body of the Reichsminister for Propaganda. There was hardly enough fuel to burn Hitler and Braun's corpses; there was even less to spare for the Goebbels'. Their bodies were easily identified by the Soviets when they captured the Reich Chancellery on 2 May.





Above: SS General Fegelein (middle) is shown here appearing on a Nazi television show. Despite, being his sister-in-law, Eva Braun did nothing to save Fegelein from Hitler's vengeance in the bunker.

Below: Hanna Reitsch (1912–1979) was a fervent admirer of Hitler. As Ritter von Greim's personal pilot, she visited the bunker from 26–29 April, and miraculously flew out again.



back from a conference with Himmler, landing at the last remaining airstrip at Gatow. But he did not arrive at the bunker for the scheduled briefing. Nor did he appear the next day when massed Soviet heavy artillery unleashed a terrific bombardment. A Russian assault on the Chancellery was beaten off by Mohnke's veterans, but Hans Baur's remaining aircraft – including a giant Junkers Ju-390 that could have reached Japanese-occupied Manchuria – were over-run in their hangers at Gatow.

Now came news of further betrayal. The absent Fegelein had been arrested at a nearby apartment, in company with a woman who

had escaped by jumping from the kitchen window. The couples' luggage included a fortune in jewels and currency. Her handbag contained several passports – one of which was British! The unwitting SS General (married to Eva Braun's sister Gretl) had been keeping an enemy spy as his mistress.

Fegelein was roughly interrogated by Gestapo chief Müller. Then, at 9.00 pm, the Reuters news agency carried reports that Himmler was negotiating with the Allies. Hitler was apoplectic. At midnight the Führer ordered Fegelein shot. An hour later, he invited the survivors in the bunker to a wedding. He was marrying Eva Braun.

Following the ritual he had decreed for all German citizens, Hitler declared to an official – appropriately named Wagner – that he was of pure Aryan descent, though in the register he left his father's name (born Schickelgruber) blank, along with the dates of his parent's wedding. Adolf and Eva were pronounced man and wife, and bottles of champagne were opened. As Berlin collapsed around the Führer and his last followers, Hitler reminisced about the old days, holidays at Berchtesgaden, the golden summer of the Nazi age. He dictated a last testament, re-visiting his usual themes and ending with a characteristic tirade against the Jews. Finishing at 4.00 am, he went to bed alone.

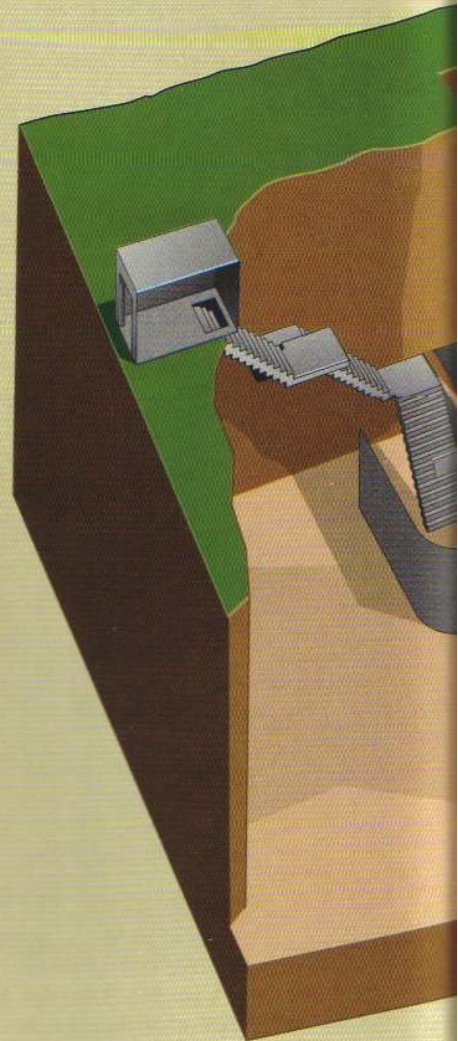
MAKING HIS EXIT

With the end so close, others were not so bent on solitude. Many survivors mention the goings-on upstairs in the Chancellery, where even the iron discipline of the SS was breaking down. Men and women who would be face to face with the Soviets in 24 hours, drank fine cognac and had sex on the tables which had been cleared to treat the wounded.

At about 2.30 in the morning of 30 April, Hitler said his farewells to his staff, mumbling inaudibly to 20 or so people, mainly female secretaries, gathered in the main passage of the bunker. Later that morning, the land lines to the military HQ on Bendlestrasse went dead. Mohnke's battle group fought to keep the Russians at bay, but their icy professionalism could only slow the tide, sheer weight of numbers would tell in the end.

At 2.30 in the afternoon, Erich Kempka, Hitler's chauffeur, was ordered to gather 200 litres of petrol in the Chancellery garden – no easy task among the ruins that were central Berlin.

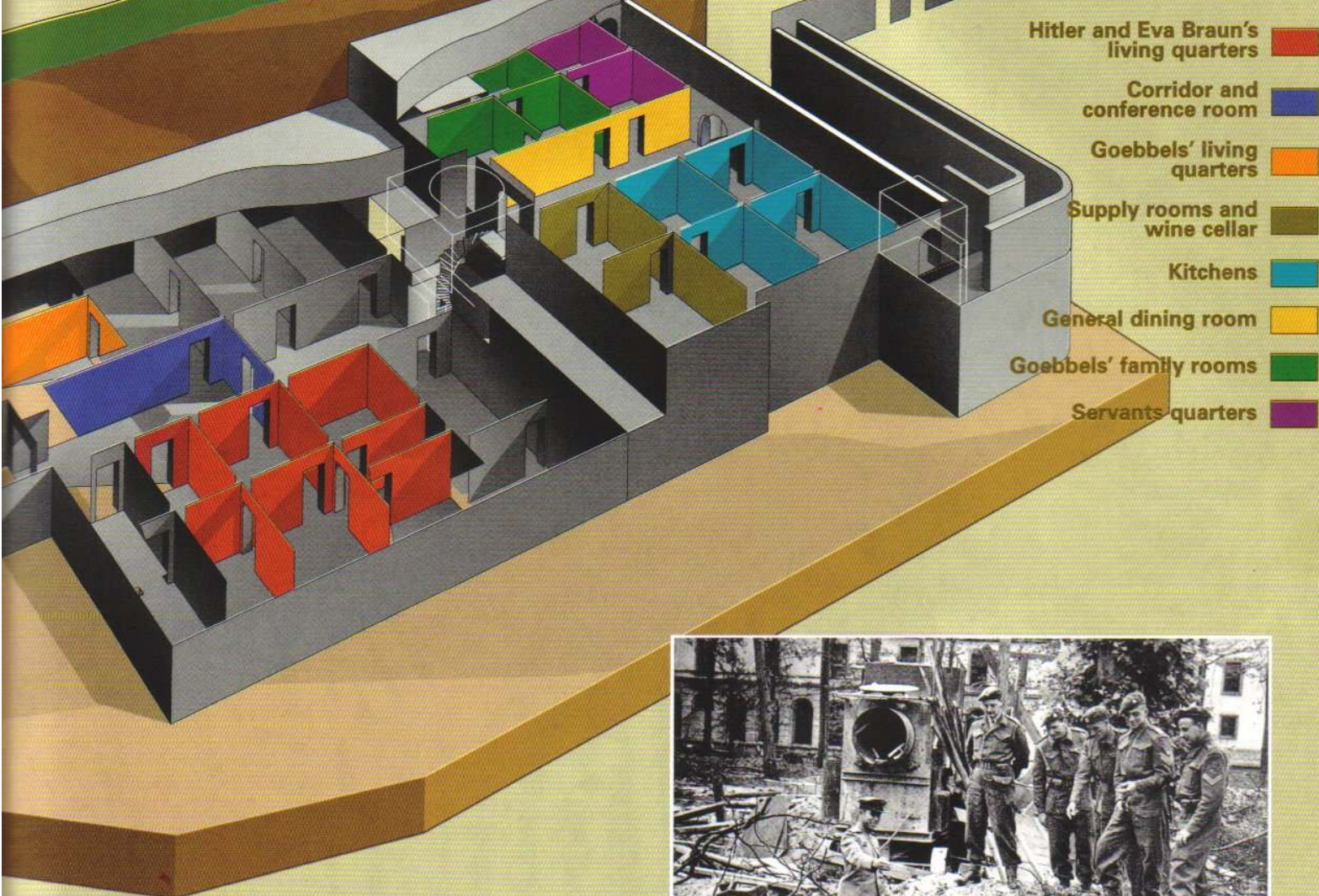
At 3.00 pm Hitler and Eva said their goodbyes and retired into the study. There was the sound of a single shot, and Goebbels, Bormann and others who had been waiting in the corridor went in.



Below: Hitler makes one of his occasional forays from the monotonous world of the bunker. A staircase led from there to the now destroyed Reich Chancellery.



Berlin Bunker



HITLER'S BUNKER LAY 15 METRES BELOW THE GROUND, ITS rough cement walls dripping moisture. Some had been painted grey, but the plastering was mostly unfinished. The three biggest rooms – Hitler's private quarters – were only three by four and a half metres (10 x 15 feet) with a small toilet and bathroom. The other side of a short corridor, that doubled as a conference room, were smaller rooms for Dr Morrell, Hitler's private physician (later taken over by Doctor Goebbels when the propaganda chief came to share his leader's fate), the machine room and telephone switchboard. A room to the right was occupied by Hitler's mistress, Eva Braun, who had arrived in Berlin in March. When she moved her belongings into the bunker, the secretaries realised their likely fate. "Her arrival was greeted in silence. We all knew what it meant", recalled Gerda Christian. An SS sentry described Braun as *Der Todesengel* – the Angel of Death.

By the middle of April the Soviets were sweeping round the capital on both sides, poised to complete the encirclement. The decision could be put off no longer: to flee Berlin or to face the wrath of the Soviet army.

In the upper level of the bunker, beneath the marble halls of the Reich Chancellery, were kitchens and quarters for the FBK (*Führerbegleitkommando*) – Hitler's SS bodyguard. One of their officers described his last post as a 'cement submarine', smelling increasingly strongly of sweaty woollen uniforms and coal-tar disinfectant. The guards were supremely fit young men, but 12-hour shifts inside the bunker left them bleary-eyed, with headaches from the poor ventilation.



Top: A Russian points out to his British Allies the place where Hitler and Eva Braun's bodies were partially burnt. The latest research suggests that the Soviets destroyed the remains on the spot, retaining only a fragment of Hitler's skull to aid positive identification.

Above: Reputedly the last ever photograph of the living Hitler, taken by Heinrich Hoffmann, the opportunist photographer whose photos had done so much to promote the Party.



LIBERATION

**"We did not yet belong to this world. Everything was unreal, unlikely, as in a dream."
Viktor Frankl – survivor – 1945.**

IN 1944, the thousand-year Reich was beginning to disintegrate. Allied armies were advancing toward the German borders from east and west.

It was clear to Himmler and the SS that Allied troops would soon be over-running the concentration camps. Orders were given to move the inmates as soon as British, American or Soviet troops approached, and to destroy the camps. Tens of thousands of inmates died on 'Death Marches', but most of the camps remained intact.

The Allies had long known that something unspeakable was happening in Germany. As early as 1943, Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt, revealed the extent of their terrible knowledge, by announcing their intention to make the Nazi leadership stand trial for war crimes.

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

But the reports which had been smuggled out from the camps did little to prepare the young Allied soldiers for the horrors they were about to face.

The Soviets were the first to liberate a major installation; over-running the Majdanek death camp in eastern Poland in July 1944. Roman Karman, a Soviet journalist, reported what they had found:

"In the course of my travels into liberated territory I have never seen a more abominable sight than Majdanek near Lublin.

This is not a concentration camp; it is a gigantic murder factory.

Save for the 1,000 living corpses found when it was entered, no inmate escaped alive. Yet full trains had daily brought thousands from all parts of Europe to be coldly, brutally massacred.

In the centre of the camp stands a huge stone building with a factory chimney – the world's biggest crematorium – the gas chambers contained some 250 people at a time. They were closely packed... so that after they suffocated they remained standing... It is difficult to believe it myself but human eyes cannot deceive me..."

WILL NO ONE LISTEN?

The horrors of Majdanek were broadcast around the world. The Illustrated London News editorial stated:

"It is not our custom to publish photographs of atrocities, but in view of the fact that the enormity of the crimes perpetrated by the Germans is so wicked that our readers, to whom such behavior is unbelievable, may think the reports of such crimes exaggerated or due to propaganda, we consider it necessary to present them, by means of the accompanying photographs, with irrefutable proof of the organized murder of between 600,000 and 1,000,000 helpless persons at the Majdanek Camp near Lublin. And even these pictures are



Facing page: With their last reserves of strength, the victims of Nazi oppression cheer their liberators. The camp at Dachau, just outside Munich, was taken by US forces on 29 April 1945.

Top: The Germans profited from the victims of genocide – they confiscated the luggage of the Jews on arrival and looted their corpses after gassing. This pile of prosthetic limbs was discovered by the Russians at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Above: One of the most evocative photos of liberation. No joy, just the pathos of a child's suffering and the stareless gaze of his dead mother.

THE HOLOCAUST



Top: At Auschwitz, the largest of the camps, the Soviets found only a few thousand emaciated people still alive. The Nazis had forced almost all of the inmates on Death Marches. The suddenness of the Soviet advance ensured that the Germans had no time to dispose of the evidence.

Below: A US medic kneels before the slaughtered. Such a man would have encountered innumerable battlefield victims. The mechanised annihilation of the defenceless was a new and profound brutality.

carefully selected from a number, some of which were too horrible to reproduce...

The story as it stands is almost incredible in its bestiality, but German cruelty went further still at Majdanek. Prisoners too ill to walk into the camp... were dragged alive to the furnaces and thrust in alongside the dead."

WORSE TO COME

But few who saw the movies and photos could have believed that this was only a start. There were more horrifying crimes to be uncovered.

As the Red Army pushed westwards through Poland in the summer of 1944, they uncovered the death camps at Belzec, Treblinka, and Sobibor. Some effort had been made to destroy these killing-centres, but in January 1945 they over-ran Auschwitz, the most murderous of them all.

At the camp's last roll-call on 17 January, there had been

nearly 70,000 prisoners in the complex. By the time the Red Army arrived ten days later, part of the camp had been blown up and 90 percent of the inmates had gone. They had been marched westwards.

DEATH MARCHES

In early 1945, according to SS records, there were about three quarters of a million prisoners in the concentration camp system. At least a third of these were killed on death marches during the Reich's last four months.

The Western Allies did not make comparable finds until they began to capture German territory, in March and April of 1945. One by one, the horrors were uncovered at Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, Nordhausen, Ravensbrück, and Dachau.

A US Army correspondent accompanied the first troops to approach Dachau:

"It was late afternoon – about 4 pm – as the men made their



FACING THE EVIDENCE

THE SENIOR BRITISH MEDICAL OFFICER ORDERED THAT GERMAN civilians from the area around Belsen be rounded up and shown what had been done in their name. Before forcing them to see the camp, he said:

"You must realize that according to those wretched victims who experienced other camps, this camp was in some respects one of the better ones. Chiefly because in this camp it was possible in most cases, though not in all, to die fairly quietly from hunger or typhus. In certain other camps, the inmates were done to death and hurled into massive graves, sometimes before they were dead..."

What you will see here is the final and utter condemnation of the Nazi Party. It justifies every measure the United Nations will take to exterminate that Party. What you will see here is such a disgrace to the German people that their names must be erased from the list of civilized nations..."



Left: Former concentration-camp guards were pressed into service to clear the rotting corpses at Bergen-Belsen. The camp was later burned to the ground to eradicate epidemics such as cholera and typhoid.

Above: A German inhabitant of Weimar considers the meaning of existence. According to Nazi propaganda even a small Jewish child represented a danger to National Socialism.

Below : US soldiers look on at the piles of corpses at Dachau. The first reefs are hung as remembrance for those slain and to remind humanity of the depravity that can take hold of even so-called 'civilised' nations.

Below left: It was Allied policy to show the German inhabitants local to a concentration camp the results of Nazi policy. Many, even the young, were ordered to exhume the corpses of those killed over the past years.





Top left: At Flossenbürg the bodies are prepared for incineration. The Nazis were impeccable record-keepers. If not tattooed beforehand, after death a corpse was given a number.

Above: What manner of beast was the concentration camp guard? A less literate form of 'Abandon hope all ye who enter here' greets the inmates.

Left: Josef Kramer – 'the Beast of Belsen' – shortly after the liberation of his camp on 15 April 1945. Incredibly, he offered his services to the British in helping to improve conditions.

Far left: The 'hospital' at Buchenwald ensured death, rather than recovery. Disease, malnutrition and torture left 200 dead a day.

way down the tracks. They knew that the camp ahead was guarded by SS troops and that they expected a hard fight. And like all men going into an attack, be they rookies or vets, these men were afraid.

They picked up the cloying stink before they reached the first boxcar. They stopped and stared and the dead stared back.

There were about a dozen bodies in the dirty boxcar, men and women alike. They had gone without food so long that their dead wrists were broomsticks tipped with claws. These were the victims of a deliberate starvation diet, and

they weren't pretty.

The men looked, then shuffled on to a new car in silence. There were more dead eyes here staring out at the German houses not 200 yards from the tracks.

Someone broke the stillness with a curse and then with a roar the men started for the camp on the double."

GI VIGILANTES

Dachau had not been evacuated, and there were more than 30,000 prisoners in the camp. Even as the shocked GIs set about trying to help the victims, SS guards were being rounded up. Some were shot out of hand by the

enraged American soldiers, but most were imprisoned to face the legal process later.

One African-American, serving in one of the US segregated units told of his experiences at Dachau:

"I remember going through those gates shortly after our men had gone through, and I saw the walking dead. I saw human beings who had been beaten, starved and tortured... They were standing there, skin and bones, dressed in striped pyjamas. They had skeletal features with deep-set eyes. They had sores on their bodies. One man held out his hands. And they were webbed together with scabs, due to malnutrition.

Something happened when I walked through the gates. My blinkers came off, my tunnel vision dissipated. And I began to realise that human suffering is not just delegated to me and mine. Human suffering touches everybody. All people can suffer."

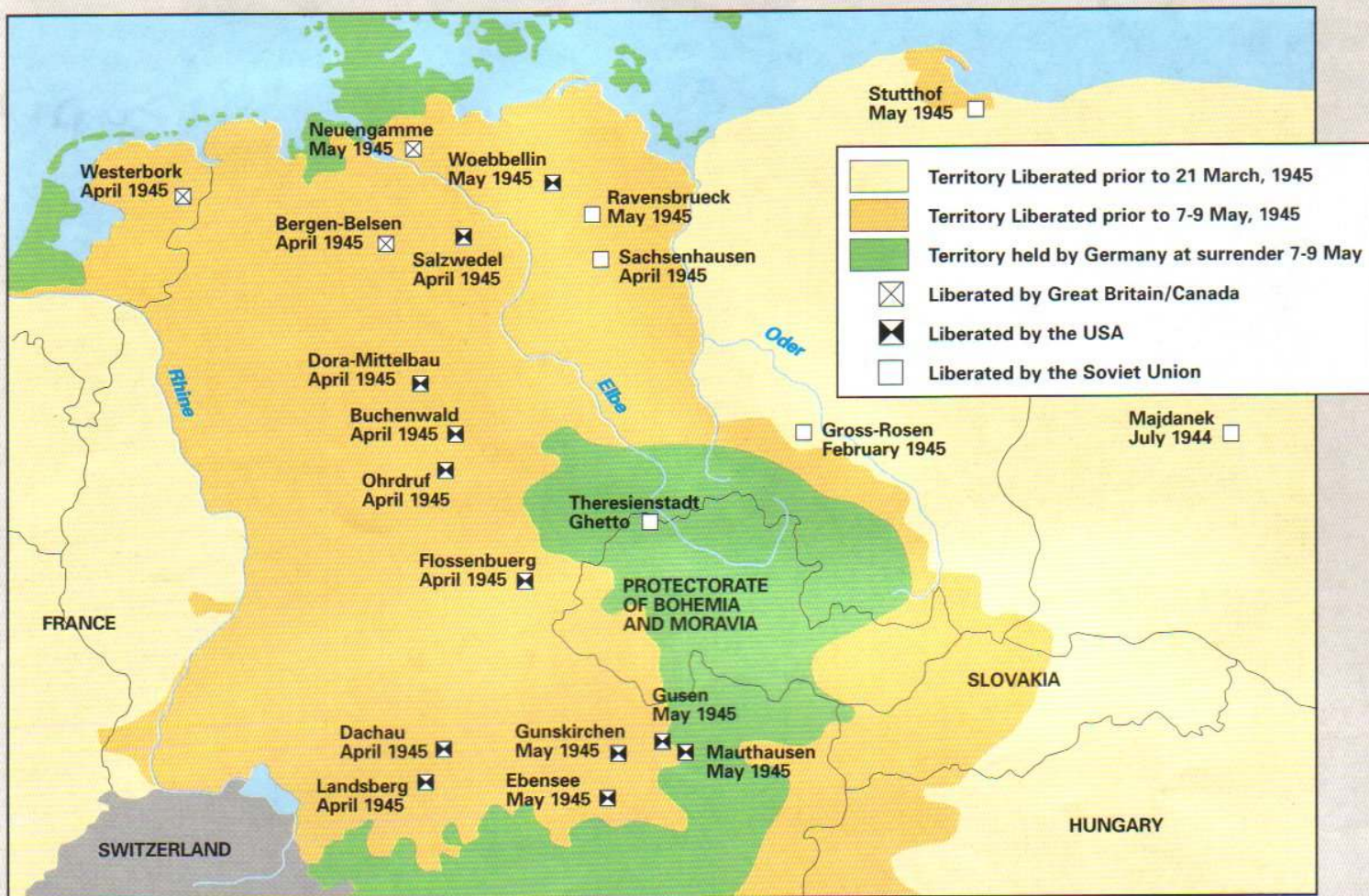
War correspondent Fred Friendly was with the troops who reached Mauthausen:

"Of all the sights and sounds that stunned me, the weakness of the brave men and women who survived was the most memorable. There were thousands dead and hundreds alive in barracks – six high, four men in a bed. When we walked through, they shouted in various languages, 'Viva Americanski.' Then, to my great embarrassment, they applauded. But their hands were so emaciated, so much without flesh, that it sounded to me... like seals clapping."

A FRESH HELL

The shock to the British troops at Belsen was even worse. The camp had been a repository for sick inmates from other camps, and a typhus epidemic had raged through the 60,000 prisoners. Peter Coombs, a British officer, wrote about the conditions:

Allied Liberation



"One has to take a tour round and see their faces, their slow staggering gait and feeble movements. The state of their minds is plainly written on their faces, as starvation has reduced their bodies to skeletons. The fact is that all these were once clean-living and sane..."

They are Jews that are dying at the rate of three hundred a day. They must die and nothing can save them, their end is inescapable, they are too far gone now to be brought back to life.

I saw their corpses lying near their hovels, for they crawl or totter out into the sunlight to die. I watched them make their last feeble journeys, and even as I watched they died."

The uncontrollable epidemic was so lethal that the camp had to be burned down. Former inmates were moved to a Panzer school two miles down the road. The British were horrified by

what they found. Mass graves were dug, bulldozers were brought to shovel in the dead.

CELLULOID MEMORIES

The films the British took were broadcast throughout the world and formed indelible images of the Holocaust and the name Bergen-Belsen.

The last of the camps encountered by the Americans were Mauthausen and Gusen on 5 May 1945. Three days later the war was over. The army began a new, intense battle to bring the survivors back to life.

Many of the survivors could not believe they were free. Astonishingly, considering the ordeal they had undergone, others could still feel hope.

Fania Fenelon wrote of the last day at Bergen-Belsen:

"A new life was breathed into the camps. Jeeps, command cars, and half tracks drove among the

barracks. Khaki uniforms abounded... Our liberators were well fed and bursting with health, and they moved among our skeletal silhouettes like surges of life. We felt an absurd desire to finger them, to let our hands trail to their eddies as in the Fountain of Youth... These men seemed not to know that one could live in slow motion, that energy was something you saved."

LONG ROAD HOME

But many more, like the Viennese psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, were simply bemused:

"Timidly, we looked around and glanced at each other questioning. Then we ventured a few steps out of the camp. This time no orders were shouted at us, nor was there any need to duck quickly to avoid a blow or a kick.

'Freedom' – we repeated to ourselves, and yet we could not

grasp it."

Some survivors felt empty, even guilty that they had survived while the majority perished. Other felt nothing. Israel Lau – eight-year of age – old before his time, was liberated at Buchenwald. He described his meeting with an American-Jewish chaplain:

"In my eyes he was just another person, wearing a different kind of uniform. He jumped out of the jeep, took me in his arms, weeping. I was so frightened, he started to laugh, to smile.

'How old are you my child?' he asked.

'What difference does it make, I'm older than you', I answered.

'Why do you think you are older than me?' he asked.

'Because you cry and laugh as a child. And I stopped laughing and I can't even cry. So I must be older than you.'"



THE VOLKSSTURM

By late 1944, Germany had reached the bottom of the barrel. Rather than surrender, Hitler bolstered his crumbling defences with the old and very young.

THE DEUTSCHER Volkssturm (German People's Storm) was created by decree on 25 September, 1944. Hitler made one of his increasingly rare public announcements to declare the creation of this new army. He broadcast on 18 October, 1944. This was the anniversary of the Battle of Leipzig, when in 1813,

a militia assisted a coalition of Prussian (and Russian *sic.*) forces in driving Napoleon forever from German soil.

The effect of the decree was to enlist all German males between the ages of 16 and 60 who were capable of bearing arms, into the *Volkssturm*: "to strengthen the active forces of our Wehrmacht and especially to conduct



inexorable fighting at all places where the enemy intends to set foot on German soil."

The new army was controlled at the highest levels by Nazi elite. *Reichsführer-SS* Heinrich Himmler, in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Replacement Army (*Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres* BdE), was made responsible for the military organisation, instruction, equipping and arming of the *Volkssturm*. Whilst *Reichsleiter* Martin Bormann was entrusted with recruitment and charged with the political direction of this people's army.

NEW MODEL ARMY

The Wehrmacht played no part in the structuring or the mobilisation of the new force. The Nazis planned to exert the maximum control over this force from the outset. The *Volkssturm* was to be an instrument of the Party, untouched by the aristocratic and conservative ideology of the officer corps. Certainly, it was designed to defend the Reich (though it proved frequently to be more of a hindrance than a help), but it also kept a large and increasingly disillusioned proportion of the population firmly under Party control. The speed with which every eligible male was notified of his duty to serve in the *Volkssturm* was a powerful reminder of the close tabs that the Party kept on all of its subjects. The subsequent training and service ensured that any dissenters were observed carefully by their more loyal superiors.

The six-million strong force was made up of approximately 10,200 battalions. Limited staff personnel and rear-echelon facilities made the battalion the largest feasible unit. Each man was graded and appointed to one of four levies. The first levy consisted of 1.2 million men in 1,850 battalions. All physically fit 20-60 year olds, without essential war exemption, were conscripted. They were assigned to front line battalions, lived in barracks and were liable for service outside their home district. All available

NSDAP political officials who had previously been able to dodge call-ups were now forced into the first levy.

The second levy was 2.8 million strong, comprising of physically fit 20-60 year olds who had essential war work exemption. Usually organised in factory battalions, they lived at home and were only liable for service within their home county. The next levy, the third, was very different in character; it was made up of 600,000 16-19 year olds, plus some 15 year old volunteers. The majority were 16 year olds who had been immersed in National Socialist doctrine all their lives and had been toughened for combat in the Hitler Youth. It was these boys who were to defend the Reich to the bitter end when everyone else had accepted defeat. Finally, the fourth levy consisted of 1.4 million 20-60 year olds who were unfit for active service and volunteers who were over sixty. Their primary task was guard duty, including in some cases, the guarding of concentration camps.

The *Volkssturm* was prohibited from fighting outside the Reich, but at least four battalions were created from Germans living abroad – the 400 and 402 in Denmark and 605 and 610 in Bohemia-Moravia. A medical service was also formed in November 1944, which supplied each battalion with one medical officer and medical orderly. Other specialist formations were created such as the *Panzerwarndienst* (Tank Warning Service) in frontier districts. All *Volkssturm* recruits, many already working a 72 hour emergency week, were given a 48 hour training course by armed forces instructors. After they had completed this, they were expected to have mastered the rifle, *Panzerfaust* and *Panzerschreck* bazookas, the grenade-launcher, hand grenade, and emergency use of the pistol, sub-machine gun and land mine. In reality there were scarcely enough weapons for the first and second levies, and many militia men were sent into combat unarmed. The third levy was not



Above: Himmler was entrusted with the raising and training of Germany's last-ditch defenders who were to realise their destiny as political soldiers. The young, steeped in Nazi philosophy, were easily encouraged. The old for the most part merely sought to avoid execution for non-participation.



Above: SA Chief of Staff, Wilhelm Scheppmann, was appointed inspector of rifle training for the *Volkssturm*. Here he instructs a recruit who has wisely brought his own weapon – a hunting rifle!

Opposite page: No country's fate should ever rest in the hands of its youth. It was the children of Germany who paid the highest price for Hitler's refusal to accept defeat, it cost them their innocence and sometimes their life.

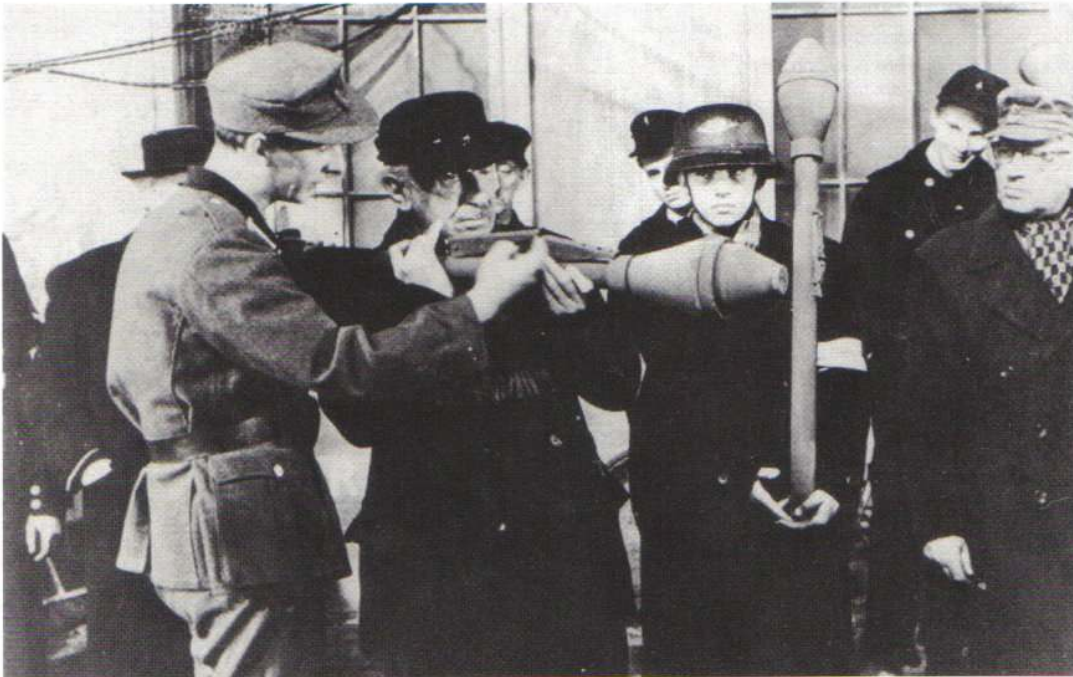
issued weapons, and the fourth levy were expected to use hunting rifles or captured firearms. Troops were often issued a trench-spade as their sole means of defence!

VOTE WITH YOUR FEET

Despite this, the 'Decree on Status of the members of the German *Volkssturm*', issued on 1 December 1944, stated that *Volkssturm* soldiers enjoyed equal status with the soldiers of the Wehrmacht in every aspect, (except for clothing and personal equipment which they had to provide themselves).

To most of the *Volkssturm* this

declaration had an air of absurdity about it. In reality the fighting capability of the majority of *Volkssturm* units was practically nil. The lack of adequate weapons and ammunition, or time, for proper training, had its effect on morale. The desertion rate was high; some surrendered to the Allies without fighting and others simply drifted home when the opportunity presented itself. Nazi fanaticism did exist but this was the preserve of Hitler Youth members. Otherwise, enthusiasm for the *Volkssturm* was almost non-existent. The opinion of the



Above: Volkssturm men receive their cursory training for the benefit of Goebbels' cameramen. The boy to the right seems less than impressed with the prospect of fighting alongside pensioners.

Right: One comment by a Volkssturm member, summed up the role of the militia. He believed he had been called up because: "there is nothing more to oppose the assault of our enemies with than people and blood."

Below: The Panzerfaust bazooka was the weapon most widely distributed to the Volkssturm. Although easy to use, inadequate training led to many accidents.

Below right: The Allies often failed to make the distinction between Volkssturm and Volksgrenadier divisions. This is one reason for the 175,000 casualties incurred by this German 'Dads' Army'.



civilian population, the regular troops and particularly members of the *Volkssturm* themselves, was that if the might of the German Army could not halt the Allied advance then what hope did a civilian army, armed with hunting rifles and spades have! There was no remuneration for service in the *Volkssturm*, except when taking part in actual combat, this, together with the lack of uniform caused great disgruntlement amongst men who felt they were assuming the risks and the duties of soldiers but with none of the privileges.

Attitudes to fighting did vary depending on where the *Volkssturm* were assigned. On the Eastern front, fed on tales of Red Army soldiers hell-bent on vengeance, some members of the *Volkssturm* put up an impressive fight. Though just as many simply removed their armbands and joined the convoys of evacuees whom they were supposed to be escorting.

On the Western front, the *Volkssturm* showed none of the desperate determination of their Eastern comrades. The example of those sent to man the Siegfried Line is typical. Having been sent on the 12 February 1945 to defend this major German defensive line, many members of the local *Volkssturm* failed to respond to the call-up at all, whilst those that did, surrendered at the first opportunity or threw away their armbands and went home.



Teenage Warriors

THE ONLY MEMBERS OF THE *Volkssturm* who embraced Hitler's call to 'fight to the death' were members of the Hitler Youth. They had been so heavily immersed in National Socialism, that they were blind to the hopelessness of their cause and its moral repugnance. Some members of the Hitler Youth had already seen combat as part of the new 12th *SS-Panzer Division Hitlerjugend*, formed in 1943. They fought superbly, and their commitment to the cause ensured that by September 1944, the division was withdrawn with only 600 of its men (or boys) left. Field Marshal von Rundstedt summarised their particular tragedy: "It is a pity that this faithful youth is sacrificed in a hopeless situation."

But the sacrifice of youth continued. Hitler Youth members formed the backbone of the *Volkssturm*. They had been receiving military instruction for years and units were often trained and commanded by high-ranking Hitler Youth members. One such leader who was 17 at the time, remarked of his troops: "Of the 45 men, only 10 were Hitler Youth members; the others were in their 40s and 50s. I eyed them with some apprehension: undisciplined, over-aged, unfit civilians wearing armbands with the inscription *Deutsche Wehrmacht*. I felt very self-conscious as their leader. Some were fathers of my school friends."

Despite the apprehension, the combination of near-religious fanaticism and the thrill of battle created ruthless soldiers. *Reichsjugendführer* Arthur Axmann described them as a "movement of young tank busters" for whom there were but two possibilities "victory or annihilation". Hitler Youth units would regularly ambush infantry units and if they were cornered they would fight to the last child.

Appropriately, Hitler chose in his final public appearance on 20 April 1945, in the Chancellery Garden in Berlin, to reward some of his most loyal supporters. All were 15 year-olds, being decorated with the Iron Cross for destroying Soviet tanks at close range. At the end, when everyone else in Berlin was fleeing, it was to the youth that Hitler looked for his salvation. It was an impossible burden for them to bare.

In April 1945, 5,000 Hitler Youths were detailed as part of the *Volkssturm*, to defend the Havel River in Berlin. Their mission was to hold the bridgehead until Wenck's 12th Army could relieve them. But Wenck's force was too enfeebled to make the breakthrough. After 5 days of combat only 500 boys capable of fighting were left.

The *Volkssturm*, despite the courageous efforts of its teenage warriors had, as predicted, made little impact. For the older members this came as no surprise – most of them had surrendered or disbanded already – but for the Hitler Youth, who had known nothing but National Socialism, their world collapsed. For many of them, the process of unravelling the evil that they had been trained to serve so fervently, would continue long after Germany itself was rebuilt.



Top: From the beginning, the training of the Hitler Jugend was steeped in combat and weaponry skills. Hitler viewed his youth as the next generation of cannon-fodder. If they were not yet fully formed, no matter. Zeal would take the place of inadequate preparation.



Left: One Hitler Youth member later described how he "developed a harsh resentment towards our elders, they had delivered us, their children, into the cruel power of a new God." That god was Adolf Hitler.

Below: 16 year old anti-aircraft gun assistant Hans-Georg Henke is unable to accept the end of the Reich. Hitler Youth members were amongst the most fanatical supporters of Nazism, and the de-Nazification programme initiated by the Allies was for some a life-long process.





NUREMBERG

Nuremberg sent a message of hope to a world sickened by conflict: in the future, all nation states were to be accountable for their actions.

ON 8 AUGUST 1945 the United States, Russia and Britain signed an agreement to put the leading figures of the Third Reich on trial before a specially created court of law. Nineteen countries of the United Nations endorsed the decision, lending a crucial element of international support

to what might otherwise have been seen merely as the judgement of the victors over the vanquished.

The origins of the International Military Tribunal lay in the Moscow Conference of October 1943. Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill had all declared their intention to punish the German leadership, but no

attention had been given to the detail. Whilst Stalin's primary motive of revenge overruled any other consideration, the Western Allies were more concerned with what specific form the trials should take. As the Allied armies closed on Berlin, bitter arguments raged in Washington and London over the procedures: their practicality,

legality and morality.

Churchill's cabinet was divided; Attlee's even more so. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Simon put his finger on the core of the debate when he observed that the fate of Hitler's inner circle was 'a political, not a judicial question'. He spoke for those who argued for the immediate execution of the top Nazis without recourse to novel legal procedures. It was, after all, what Hitler would have done had the roles been reversed.

But this was precisely the point. The Western Allies were



concerned to conclude a just war with an equally just judgement on Nazi Germany. Simply shooting the Nazis would be to descend to their level and an aberration of all the moral and legal principles upon which civilised nations were supposed to be built. It was important to bring them to trial before the world and force the accused to answer publicly for their horrific crimes. It was also intended that the trials would send a signal into the future that criminal leaders could expect very personal retribution.

RESPECTABLE NUMBERS

'In order to lend respectability and credibility to the proceedings' (as modern German historian Klaus Fischer observes), the special tribunal that sat in judgement over Hitler's elite consisted of a judge and an alternate member from the four countries directly involved; the USA, Russia, Britain and France. The president was a British judge, Lord Justice Sir Geoffrey Lawrence.

But who was to be tried? The US government was concerned to condemn various branches of the German government and society for their support of Nazism. With Hitler, Goebbels, Himmler and Ley dead before the trial could open, there were twenty-two men whose seniority within Hitler's regime placed them at the apex of responsibility.

This actually involved 21 men standing trial, since Martin Bormann (Deputy Führer since 1941) could not be located and had to be tried in absentia. (It would be nearly 30 years before his body was discovered and even then conspiracy theorists would continue to peddle legends of his escape.)

There were four headings under which the leading Nazis were tried; each of the accused faced at least two of them:

1. Creating or implementing 'a common plan or conspiracy' to commit the other crimes



listed below.

2. 'Crimes against Peace'
3. 'War Crimes'
4. 'Crimes against Humanity'

The American prosecution team concentrated on proving the first category; the British addressed the second, whilst the Russian and French teams dealt with the latter two counts in Eastern and Western Europe respectively.

WAR CRIMES

The concept of 'War Crimes' was the most established heading, grounded in the Hague and Geneva Conventions that had governed (at least in theory) the conduct of warfare since the beginning of the century. For the purposes of the Nuremberg trials they were defined as 'murder, ill-treatment or deportation to slave labour or for another purpose of civilian population of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners-of-war or persons on the seas, killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cities, towns or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity'.

CRIMES VS HUMANITY

'Crimes against humanity' extended and deepened the

Opposite page and above: 22 November 1945 – The calling to order of the court at Nuremberg. It was the fulfilment of both Justice Jackson's vision and the wishes of the great FDR who never lived to see it.

Below: Rudolf Hess is interrogated to ascertain his mental stability. Hess' questionable sanity nearly got him off, but when told he wouldn't be able to attend court if judged unfit, he made a bizarre total recovery!



concepts of 'War Crimes' to demonstrate that the Nazis had plumbed unprecedented depths of depravity. The charter defined these as 'murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population before or during the war, or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds in execution of or in connection with any crime within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, whether or not in violation of domestic law of the

country where perpetrated'.

The evidence against those charged with categories 3 and 4 was, of course, overwhelming. Göring could try to bluster his way out of his complicity in the Holocaust, arguing: "Anybody can make an atrocity film if they take corpses out of their graves and then show a tractor shoving them in again." But the impact of the concentration camp footage was phenomenal and no one there except those responsible for the atrocities questioned



Above and right: The contrast between Alfred Jodl (above left) and Wilhelm Keitel (above right) and their former colleague Gerd von Rundstedt was profound. Rather than standing trial, Rundstedt testified against his friends. The fact that Hitler sacked him three times and that he stood up to him worked in his favour, but more important was the written proof that Jodl and Keitel had passed on such controversial orders as the infamous 'Commando Order'.

Below: Underlying the conception of counts 1 and 2 was the desire to bring to justice men such as former foreign minister von Ribbentrop. He could not be convicted on the more convincing counts 3 and 4 but as a major figure in the Third Reich he had to be held to account.



could only be applied to 'crimes against peace' and only to events from November 1937 onwards when some of Hitler's ideas about annexing Austria had been recorded in the 'Hossbach memorandum'. At this point it could be proved that Hitler had told his senior followers of his intention to go to war, anyone who chose to remain a leading figure in the Third Reich bore full responsibility for all atrocities committed during the war.

WEAK PACTS

Category 2 drew its definition of 'aggressive war' from the Kellogg-Briand Pact, signed in 1928. This international agreement, ratified by all major world powers, renounced war as an instrument of national policy. It was a triumph of hope over experience. The Pact never actually defined 'aggressive war' and no provision was made for dealing with countries — or national governments — that

broke the treaty.

In reality the reaction of the Allies pre-1939 was not the resounding condemnation of Germany's aggressive foreign policy that it later claimed it to be. Their reaction to the German occupation of Austria was one of timid resignation, and as for the Munich agreement: should not the cabinets of Chamberlain and Daladier be charged as accessories? As Hjalmar Schacht — one of the only two men acquitted at Nuremberg — observed in his autobiography: 'How were the German people supposed to realize that they were living under a criminal government when foreign countries treated this same government with such marked respect?'

One of the British government's advisors warned in August 1945 that until 1 September 1939 'His Majesty's government was prepared to condone everything Germany had done'. And if the Nazis

their authenticity.

However, Categories 1 and 2 (conspiracy and crimes against peace) posed a number of problems. The attempt to prove that knowledge of a conspiracy or simply the intent to commit a crime was enough to condemn a man was the most

controversial aspect of the principles upon which the trials were based. The initial charter had stated that the conspiracy charge could be applied to 'crimes against humanity' and 'war crimes' as well as 'crimes against peace'. But the judges ruled that the conspiracy charge

THE ACCUSED

THE FIRST TRIAL OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS disposed of the surviving high-ranking leaders of the Third Reich. The accused were there as the symbolic heads of the various organs of the Nazi state. Some argue that the proceedings were a show trial, conducted by a vengeful victor and that justice had no part. But, with hindsight it must be seen that Nuremberg was a brave and largely successful attempt to enshrine objective standards of morality into international law.

Hermann Göring	Commander of the Luftwaffe and, until April 1945, Hitler's chosen successor
Rudolf Hess	Hitler's deputy until 1941
Joachim von Ribbentrop	Foreign Minister
Wilhelm Keitel	Chief of the OKW (Armed Forces Supreme Command)
Ernst Kaltenbrunner	Security Police Chief and commander of the RSHA
Alfred Rosenberg	Reich Minister for occupied territories in the USSR
Hans Frank	Governor-General of occupied Poland
Wilhelm Frick	Minister of the Interior
Julius Streicher	Nazi <i>Alte Kämpfer</i> and publisher of <i>Der Stürmer</i>
Walther Funk	President of the Reich Bank in 1939
Hjalmar Schacht	Minister of Economics 1934–37, President of the Reich Bank 1933–39
Karl Dönitz	C-in-C U-boats, then Commander of the German Navy from 1943. Hitler's appointed successor as Führer
Erich Raeder	Commander of the Navy, 1928–43
Baldur von Schirach	Leader of the Hitler Youth movement
Fritz Sauckel	Head of the forced labour programme
Alfred Jodl	Chief of the operations staff of the German armed forces
Franz von Papen	German Chancellor in 1932 who engineered Hitler's appointment and later served as German ambassador to Austria and then Turkey
Artur Seyss-Inquart	Minister of the Interior and Governor of Austria, Reich Commissioner for the Netherlands, 1940–45
Albert Speer	Minister of Armaments and War production
Constantin von Neurath	Foreign Minister 1932–38; Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia 1939–43
Hans Fritzsche	Head of the Radio Division of the Propaganda Ministry
Martin Bormann	Deputy Führer since 1941



Above: These men had the difficult task of defending those accused at Nuremberg. They served for a variety of motives. Some were unrepentant Nazis but their presence helped to validate the IMT's contention that the accused would receive a fair trial.

Below: Göring consults with his advocate. The wily Reichsmarschall proved to be very capable of conducting his own defence!



stood condemned for 'aggressive war', what was the court to make of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, in which Hitler and Stalin agreed to carve-up eastern Europe? What was the legal difference between Hitler's occupation of Austria and Stalin's seizure of the Baltic States. Germany had not been alone in invading Poland: Russia had joined in. The British had certainly intended to invade Norway to forestall a German attack — fortunately for them; the Germans beat them to the punch.

It became clear that the first two points in the treaty were legally weak and hypocritical considering Europe's dealings

with Hitler before 1939. The Allies could have got most of what they wanted in a less dubious way by limiting the prosecution solely to 'war crimes' and crimes against humanity'. Even these last two categories, with their stronger legal precedent, posed problems for the Allies.

TU QUOQUE

The prosecution of certain 'war crimes' could also backfire, since the accusations appeared to be applicable to the Allies as well as the Nazis. The crime of 'wanton destruction of cities' certainly applied to famous Nazi atrocities like Oradour-sur-Glane

— and the hundreds, if not thousands of similar crimes in Russia. But, as the defendants argued, what about Berlin?, Hamburg? or Dresden? British and American heavy bombers had rased every major German city. It is worth stressing that the majority of the destruction to German towns and cities took place in the last 12 months of the war, the pace accelerating as the war drew to a close. The German fighter force had been all but eliminated. Unprecedented numbers of heavy bombers were now available; and, thanks to 'aluminised' explosive, Allied bombs were substantially more powerful.

Even if the ground war had progressed more slowly, the bomber fleets would have been running out of worthwhile targets by May 1945. The raids were intended to destroy German war industry, but the idea that there was any real precision involved was a conscience-salving fiction at the time and a specious defence today. As the papers of 'Bomber' Harris and Generals Spaatz and Eaker make clear, they intended the root and branch destruction of the German nation, effectively implementing the Morgenthau plan by air and in advance of final victory.

The war at sea posed similar



Above: Schirach enters his 'not guilty' plea under Göring's watchful eye. Throughout the trial Göring's dogmatic defense of Nazism combined with his ability to intimidate, threatened to dissuade Schirach and others from admitting their guilt.

Right: One of the greatest contests at Nuremberg was between Speer and Göring for the allegiance of their co-accused. Speer (right) collaborated with prison psychologist, Dr Gilbert to reduce Göring's influence. This was largely achieved through segregating Göring at mealtimes.

Below: Lunch was one of the few times defendants were allowed to socialise, limiting who they could talk to was unpopular.



difficulties. Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare — sinking merchant ships without warning or provision for their crews, in defiance of pre-war treaties — had been copied by the Allies. As Chester Nimitz, Command-in-Chief of the US Pacific Fleet was prepared to testify: there was nothing Admiral Dönitz's U-boats had done that American submarine skippers had not replicated in the war with Japan. (And this included the machine-gunning of Japanese survivors in lifeboats, most notably by the — conveniently dead — Lt. Commander 'Mush' Morton of the USS Wahoo.) There were many crimes for which the rabidly anti-Semitic Admiral Dönitz could have been charged with, but the attempt to criminalize the entire U-boat arm would have tarred all British and American submariners with the same brush.

SOVIET CONTRADICTION

The most glaring contradiction of the trials was, of course, the participation of the Soviet

Union. It is beyond doubt that more human beings died at Stalin's orders than at Hitler's. Yet it is often said that Hitler's crimes were the more damnable because he targeted a specific race of people, the Jews. The idea that a given crime is somehow worse if allied to a racist motive is now incorporated into British law. However, Stalin pursued many of his empire's subject peoples with the same murderous intent. A Kalmyk family (for example) sent to die in a Siberian labour camp might be forgiven for feeling their lives were no less valuable than Hitler's Jewish victims. Evil is evil, crime is crime and it is a dubious exercise to attempt to establish their relativity.

Though the men that stood in the dock for the first of the trials at Nuremberg were certainly all key players in the Reich, many of the most important figures escaped prosecution. Most of them took their own lives when the Reich collapsed. Amongst the most notable absentees were the notorious Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler (who

THE LONDON CHARTER

IN JUNE 1945, representatives from the four countries who would stand in judgement at the trial (Britain, France, America and the Soviet Union), met in London. They were to draw up a charter establishing the framework within which the first War Crimes trial would operate.

The major problem facing the Allies was the accusation of retrospective condemnation:

'Nullum crimen et nulla poena sine lege' – 'No crime and no punishment without law' –

However abhorrent, the Nazis' actions had not contravened any international laws. So the Allies could be accused of possessing no *'locus standi'* (or legal foundation) for the prosecutions. This was ultimately true, but the representatives argued convincingly that Nazi crimes such as murder, aggressive war, oppression and racism were universally condemned in all civilisations and the charter simply reiterated this on an international platform.

In July 1945, the four powers finally reached agreement on the wording of the four indictments upon which all who were brought before the IMT could potentially be accused. These were:

1. Conspiracy to enact any of the below.
2. The waging of aggressive war (crimes against peace).
3. War crimes.
4. Crimes against humanity.

It was not only individuals who would be put on trial but also institutions. If they were found guilty this would mean that potentially millions of Germans could be classified as war criminals because of their membership of an illegal organisation.

The other significant aspect of the charter was the banning of the 'superior orders' defense. In a dictatorship this would mean that all could escape punishment except Hitler himself and he had already committed suicide. With the defense disallowed, everyone including soldiers would be forced to confront the legality of their actions – no one would be allowed to hide behind their orders.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY



THE WAGING OF WAR



Top: Of all the categories, this was the most horrifying and the easiest to prove. Evidence could be provided by survivors of the Holocaust and from the Germans themselves who were sickeningly meticulous in documenting their programme of genocide in the east.

CONSPIRACY



Above: As first conceived, the IMT intended the conspiracy charge to be applicable to all three other counts. This proved too tortuous an approach to follow.

Above right: That it was illegal to wage war aggressively is a truism today. But there was no legal precedent and little protest pre-1939 to suggest it was wrong.

Right: The Geneva and Hague conventions had largely codified the conduct of war between signatory nations. But neither Germany nor the US had signed.

WAR CRIMES





Above: (from left) 1st row: Göring, Hess, von Ribbentrop and Keitel. 2nd row: Dönitz, Raeder, von Schirach and Sauckel. Dr Gilbert once asked Göring why Hitler had never been challenged. He replied "because all the 'no men' are six foot under".

Below: The cross-examination of Göring by Justice Jackson was a battle of two mighty wills. Initially, Göring caught Jackson off guard but he came back to argue his witness into a corner from which he could not escape his guilt.



swallowed a cyanide tablet after being stopped trying to escape through British lines), Joseph Goebbels (who committed suicide in the bunker with Hitler) and Martin Bormann (who disappeared and was tried in absentia). Of course the biggest prize would have been Hitler, but he too escaped being brought to trial. Fearing a similar – or worse – fate to Mussolini, he shot himself in the bunker and ordered his body burnt.

'NUMBER ONE' NAZI

In the absence of such people, there was no disputing that the 'Nazi Number One' (as he described himself) in the dock was Hermann Göring. Unlike the rest of the Nazi elite, Göring believed he had a future in the new Germany. Such was the gulf between his delusions and reality that his primary concern, having surrendered to the Americans, was to broadcast a proclamation to the German people. Göring never accepted Hitler's decision

to have him arrested and appoint Admiral Dönitz as his successor. He genuinely believed that he would negotiate with General Eisenhower on an equal basis, prior to playing a key role in whatever post-war government was established in Germany. Instead, Göring found himself on trial for his life and took it upon himself to 'command' the defendants.

GENTLEMANLY 'HONOUR'

The most cunning of the accused chose a very different tack. Indeed, Albert Speer was infuriated by what he called 'Göring's dictatorship' inside the prison. Hitler's Machiavellian armaments minister had no intention of going down with the ship. His sackcloth and ashes routine would be honed over the years and displayed to perfection in his memoirs. A handsome man, speaking fluent English, his polished television performances in later years seemed to confirm one British officer's remark at Nuremberg – that 'we couldn't hang Speer, he was the only gentleman among the lot'.

But the young British intelligence officer and later leading British historian Lord Dacre was not persuaded. To him, Speer was 'the real criminal of Nazi Germany, for he, more than any other, represented that fatal philosophy which played havoc with Germany and nearly shipwrecked the world. For ten years he sat at the very centre of political power but he did nothing'.

Speer's best-selling book, 'Inside the Third Reich' is a valuable account of Hitler's inner circle, but primarily it was intended to sustain the mantra that saved him from the gallows. He should have known about the Holocaust. He could have known. But he did not know. Only with the publication of Gitta Sereny's exhaustive biography in 1995 did the truth about Albert Speer finally emerge.

Generals Keitel and Jodl stuck to the stock defence of

THE MIGHTY FALLEN

AS COLONEL ANDRUS (commander of Nuremberg prison) escorted his prisoners from the relative comfort of Bad Mondorf prison to their new home at Nuremberg, he reminded them just how far they had fallen: "You are no longer soldiers, you are war criminals."

For all of them, the change in circumstances came as a profound shock, but compared to the way that prisoners had been treated in Nazi Germany, their surroundings were luxurious. Prisoners were guaranteed 1,800 calories a day – much more than most Germans in the city of Nuremberg could scrape together. They also had their own cell; medical and dental care, tobacco rations (including a rolling machine) and a six hundred book library to keep them busy.

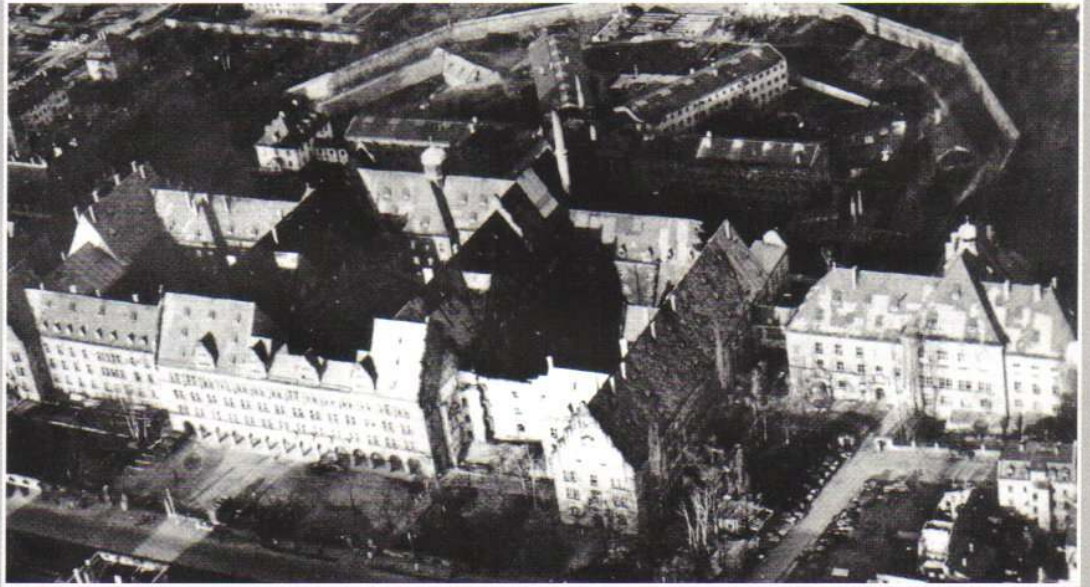
Despite this, Colonel Andrus was inundated daily with complaints. In disbelief, he finally composed a universal response which he sent in answer to all the varied protests:

"You are hereby informed that your protest against the treatment given you is wholly unwarranted and improper... The kind and considerate treatment that you receive in this jail is accorded to you not because you deserve it, but because less would be unbecoming to us, your conquerors".

Above: Nuremberg was declared by the Americans; 'among the dead cities of Europe'. It was 91 per cent destroyed. Amongst this scene of ruin stood the courthouse and prison miraculously intact, dominating the otherwise devastated skyline.

Right: (from left) Frick, Seyss-Inquart, Streicher and von Neurath. Whilst their sentences were deliberated, each prisoner was allowed to hold two 'parties' and choose three other inmates to invite. Even the detested Streicher and dull Frick received invitations!

Below: Göring has time to think as he eats alone. Despite this solitary confinement, Göring never contemplated the reality of his crimes.



Below: Throughout his time in Nuremberg, Göring proved a difficult prisoner. On the first day he collapsed after being told to clean his cell. Colonel Andrus was forced to concede and excuse him from the duty.





Above: Schacht, former President of the Reichsbank is found not guilty. As he left the court, he was rearrested to be tried by a German court. He was found guilty in 1949 and sentenced to time served.



Right: Ernst Kaltenbrunner had been appointed as Himmler's deputy after Reinhardt Heydrich's death. His futile hope was that an order to surrender Mauthausen to the Allies would save him, the gesture counted for little against evidence of the part he played in running the camps.

obedience to orders, the hallowed Prussian military tradition behind which most of their peers successfully took cover at subsequent proceedings. However, their signatures were on many of the key documents relating to the war in the east; the 'Commissar Order' alone condemned them. Had Keitel, 'the lackey' despised by so many other senior officers, displayed the moral courage to defy Hitler at any time, he might have survived. After all, von Manstein's papers revealed his own complicity in the Holocaust, but he had argued with his Führer over strategy and had been sacked. Admiral Raeder had been sacked too. His complicity in Hitler's war was beyond doubt and he was imprisoned for it, but his conviction for war crimes was contentious and he was not charged with 'crimes against humanity'.

PASSING THE BUCK

One defendant appeared contrite: Hans Frank, the 'butcher of Poland'. As he explained, "I said yes to Hitler's ideas, no to his methods. I should have said no to his ideas too. I remained caught up in this contradiction."

He should have listened to one of his teachers, when, as a young lawyer, he first appeared in court to defend some of the original Brownshirts. "Political movements that begin in the criminal courts will end in the criminal courts." Frank did express remorse, saying in court that a thousand years would not be enough to assuage Germany's guilt. Yet on the eve of his execution, he described how he was prepared "to say farewell to this earth to follow the Führer."

Two of the defendants were of doubtful mental competence to face a fair trial under British or American law.

Rudolf Hess was passed as 'perfectly normal' by psychiatrists after the trial, but his rambling court-room monologues included claims that the Jews had hypnotized Winston Churchill, King Victor Emmanuel of Italy and he, himself. He had experienced severe bouts of amnesia in prison in England after 1941 and had made several suicide attempts. His bizarre testimony infuriated Göring who feared his own eloquent defence of the Nazi movement — before 'the court of history' — would be fatally compromised by this lunatic babble. On more than one

occasion, Göring hissed at him to shut up. Analysis of Hess's statements to the court reveals a good sprinkling of Hitler quotations, running to whole sentences in some instances. Hess was only a puppet. Without Hitler to move the strings, he was utterly lost.

PARTY RAT

Hitler had dismissed the priapic pornographer Julius Streicher from his Party positions early in the war. But his paper *Der Stürmer* had continued its vitriolic outpourings and his involvement in 'crimes against humanity' was beyond doubt. Streicher had no sense of self-preservation: printing a story that Göring's daughter Edda was born by artificial insemination was not a career-enhancing decision. His anti-semitic outbursts in court were as self-defeating as they were distasteful. Ultimately, any argument about his sanity was swept away by a wave of revulsion.

TOO MANY 'YES' MEN

Hitler's foreign minister Joachim 'von' Ribbentrop had been a by-word for German arrogance before the war. Court

psychologist G M Gilbert thought that Ribbentrop's descent into fawning subservience at Nuremberg lay in his complete lack of character. Göring believed himself to be an heroic martyr; the generals, admirals, politicians and bureaucrats believed in the traditions of their caste, if not the tenets of Nazism. Ribbentrop believed in nothing. He had bluffed his way to the top echelons of the Nazi Party, but the collapse of Hitler's regime revealed how little substance there was to the man. Ribbentrop tried to weasel out of every charge, but succeeded in proving nothing beyond his inability to understand why the world should be so outraged about the Holocaust.

The legal and moral minefield sewn at Nuremberg has never been fully cleared, and war crimes trials at the end of the 20th century still threaten to explode in the faces of the prosecutors. However, at the main trial, enough paths were cleared to convict all except Schacht, Fritzsche and von Papen. The verdicts were agreed between the international judges in what really amounted to horse-trading. The Russians

SUBSEQUENT TRIALS

THE PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMINALS DID NOT END AFTER the first major trial, although it was the last trial organised by the IMT (International Military Tribunal). Instead, Control Council Law No. 10, (20 December 1945), was used to authorise the creation of 'appropriate courts' for the prosecution of war criminals by each of the four Allies in their individual zones. Nuremberg fell within the American zone, and the combination of the famous venue and the number of war criminals held by the US, ensured that the subsequent 12 trials carried out by them at Nuremberg achieved the highest profile.

Indictments were handed down to a total of 185 people, of whom 177 actually stood trial (four committed suicide and four were declared incompetent). Defendants were tried with their peers in groups of approximately twenty. The Doctors' trial was the first to take place. Others included: the Jurists' trial; the IG Farben trial; the trial of Alfred Krupp and 19 of his executives; and the Race and Settlement Main Office.

On 11 April 1949, the last judgement was delivered. In the later trials at Nuremberg, the death penalty was handed down on 24 defendants, 20 were sentenced to life imprisonment, 98 received sentences of between 18 months and 25 years, and 35 were acquitted. Of those condemned to death, only 12 were executed, (one died and the others had their sentences commuted to life). On 31 January 1951, United States High Commissioner John J McCloy, caused an uproar by drastically reducing many of the sentences.

The world political climate had changed. West Germany was now in the front line of the battle against Communism. The Nazis were yesterday's enemies.



Top: The Doctors' Trial: 9 December 1946 – 20 August 1947, was one of the most horrifying of all held at Nuremberg. Dr Karl Brandt, once Hitler's personal physician, was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Above: The Krupp trial was filled with drama. At one point all the defense lawyers walked out in protest. Krupp himself was sentenced to 12 years and had his assets confiscated. All were returned by John McCloy.

Far Left: (left to right) Wilhelm List, Hermann Foertsch and Walter Kuntze were all defendants in the so-called Hostage Trial. This accused German Generals in South-East Europe of shooting hostages out of hand.

Left: Irma Greese was one of the defendants in the Belsen Camp Trial. It served as a precursor to the later Nuremberg hearings. Greese was convicted with 30 others and sentenced to death.

Crime & Punishment

wanted all defendants given the proverbial fair trial and execution. The other judges, above all Lord Justice Roberts, worked hard to stay within the terms of reference granted by the Charter and to be seen to have acted fairly. While the courtroom clashes won worldwide media coverage, fierce arguments were played out behind the scenes.

HANGING JUDGES

The verdicts were announced on 1 October 1946. Hans Fritzsche, Franz von Papen and Hjalmar Schacht were acquitted. Admiral Dönitz was jailed for ten years, Kontantin von Neurath was jailed for 15 years, and Baldur von Schirach and Albert Speer to 20 years a piece. Admiral Raeder, Walter Funk and Rudolf Hess were sentenced to life; but only Hess, on Russian insistence, was to die in prison, in 1987. The rest of the defendants were sentenced to *Todd durch den Strang* – death by hanging. Throughout the trial, Göring's primary aim had been to disrupt and bring it into disrepute the legitimacy of the trial. During cross-examination by Justice Jackson he succeeded in outwitting the prosecutor and spent the day lecturing the court on loyalty, comparing Hitler's role as Führer to that of the President of the United States and openly criticising Communism. Although he was reeled in again on the second day of testifying, Göring had given his fellow defendants a day of exhilaration and a distorted sense of pride in the Third Reich.

GETTING AWAY WITH IT

Göring's suicide, only hours before he was due to be hanged, was a final blow for the prosecution. By taking his own life (he swallowed cyanide) he took away the Allies' and the victims of Nazi Germany's chance to see justice being done. It was a devastating blow at such a late stage. In the four suicide notes that he left, Göring explained his reasons:

"I would have had no

objection to being shot. However I will not facilitate the execution of Germany's *Reichsmarschall* by hanging!"

Göring's justification was based on his deluded belief that Nuremberg was nothing more than the judgement of victor over vanquished. He never once admitted the unparalleled nature of the horrors and atrocities committed in Nazi Germany and denied having played any part himself. With nothing to lose (he was certain he would be found guilty) and only his legacy to protect, Göring determinedly set about presenting himself as an honourable soldier/statesman.

He once stated:

"In fifty or sixty years there will be statues of Hermann Göring all over Germany."

His confidence in a widespread revival of National Socialism has, of course proved to be unfounded. And while it is unfortunate that Hermann Göring was able to elude his final justice, his outbursts in court and his dogmatic support of such a despicable cause have never been interpreted as anything but the actions of a cunning but evil man.

SHADOW OF THE NOOSE

The rest of the condemned men were hanged on the night of 15 October in the gymnasium of Nuremberg prison. The gallows was dismantled in the morning, the floor hosed down and mopped. The seven men given prison sentences were sent to clean up the cells of the dead. These they found in various states of disarray except for General Jodl's; true to the Spartan-Prussian ethos, he left his cell spotless, tin bowl and spoon washed, floor swept clean and blanket folded army-style.

That afternoon, Albert Speer, Baldur von Schirach and Rudolf Hess were brought into the gymnasium and told to wash the floor. They scoured the boards, watched by an American officer and a GI. One dark stain resisted their efforts. At length they gave up. Hess stood to attention and gave the Nazi salute.

AT 11:15PM, 15 OCTOBER 1946, THOSE WHO HAD BEEN SENTENCED to death, ate a last meal. It consisted of sausage, potato salad and a fruit salad, though few touched it. Hans Frank, Ernst Kaltenbrunner and Arthur Seyss-Inquart chose to have their confessions heard in their cell by Father O'Connor who was also with them on the gallows.

All journalists covering the trial were put into a pool and two from each country were randomly selected to be present at the hanging. The Allies wanted the world to know that these infamous men had died, they could not risk the possibility of conspiracy theories suggesting they had been kept alive for any reason. However all reports would only be released after all the condemned had been hung. The only communication allowed with the prison was the relaying of the scores in the World Baseball series to the GIs guarding the prisoners.

Sergeant John Woods, the executioner, had arrived with his team the night before. Three gallows stood in the middle of the prison gym, painted black, eight feet high, each was approached by thirteen wooden steps. The front three sides of the area into which the dropped bodies would fall were made of wood to hide the death throes of the prisoners from the spectators. The back was covered by a curtain so that the medical officer could declare the prisoner dead and so Woods and his men could remove the corpse.

Despite the disruption caused by the discovery of Göring's lifeless body just after 11pm, the executions began after midnight as planned. Joachim von Ribbentrop went first. To Colonel Andrus' (head of the Nuremberg prison) relief, all the men walked by themselves to the gallows – with the exception of Julius Streicher. Earlier Streicher had refused to get dressed in his cell and later had had to be pushed through the door of the gymnasium. When asked to give his name, Streicher instead screeched "Heil Hitler!". Turning then to Woods, he declared: "Some day, the Bolsheviks will hang you!" After he went through the trap door, his moans could still be heard, Woods descended the steps and vanished behind the curtain. Soon the moaning stopped.

Arthur Seyss-Inquart was the last to die at 2:45am. Photographs were taken of all the bodies to back up the testimony of the reporters and other eye witnesses. The corpses were then taken to a local crematorium, where staff had been told to expect the bodies of some American soldiers who had died during the war. They remained oblivious to the real identities of the corpse until they had delivered the urns back to the Allies. The ashes were emptied into a running stream and the simple iron urns were destroyed.

National Socialism's leaders had been scattered to the four winds. There were no relics for the frustrated, hateful and disenfranchised of future generations to worship.

Right: Master Sergeant John Woods enjoyed the glow of celebrity. He said of the executions "I hanged those ten Nazis and I'm proud of it. I did a good job of it... never saw one go off better."

Below: After Wilhelm Keitel had disappeared through the trap door of the gallows, Kingsbury Smith, turned to a British reporter and declared: "We've just witnessed history, probably the first professional soldier who wasn't able to hide behind his orders."





Top right and above right: Not everyone shared Woods' assessment of the executions. It took an inexcusable time for some of the prisoners to be pronounced dead (28 minutes for Keitel). Post-execution photos showed many wounds inconsistent with injuries typically received during a hanging. Woods said these injuries occurred after the men bit their tongues when dropped. Execution experts believe that Woods probably misjudged the weights of the condemned, basing his calculations on what they weighed before the trial.

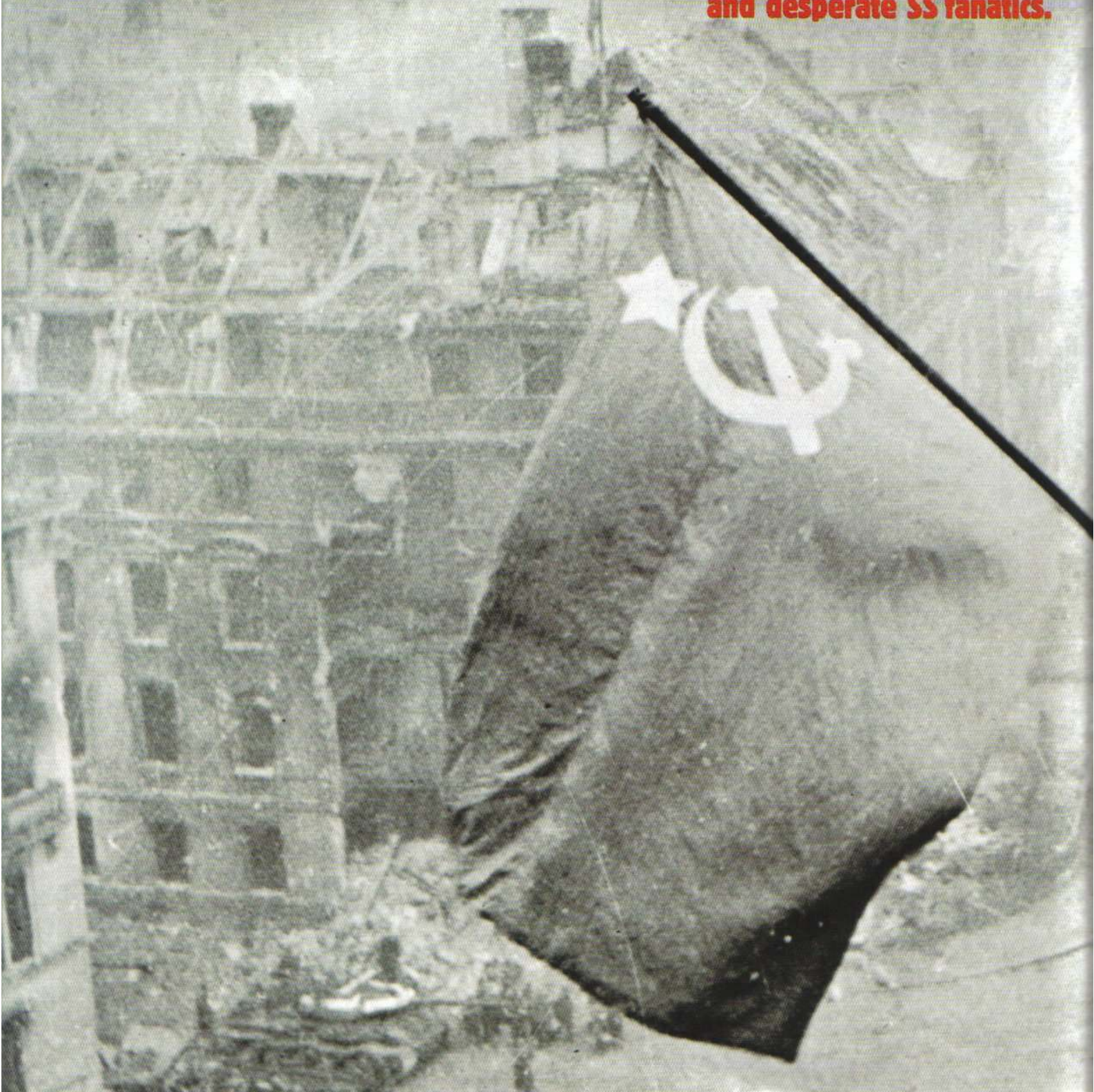
Far right: Despite his insistence on the gallows that he was "dying an innocent man", few doubted the justice of Fritz Sauckel's death sentence for his part in running the slave trade. But many believed that Albert Speer, his boss, should have joined him.

Right: Even the GIs who watched the prisoners night and day, recognised the importance of their charges. Most made sure they had a complete set of their autographs (except Hess who always refused) which was worth \$200 at home.



The Final Battle

In April 1945, the awesome power of the Red Army was deployed to the full as it battered its way into the German capital, against an army of old men, boys, and desperate SS fanatics.







Above: The last defenders of the Reich could only sit and wait as the armies commanded by Zhukov and Konev prepared to launch the final Russian offensive of the war. Only the deluded dared think of victory.



Above: Germany had nominally been fighting a 'Total War' since 1943, but it was not until the end of 1944 that the last reserves – those formerly considered too old or young to fight – were called up as the Volksturm.

The defensive line on Zhukov's front consisted mainly of mines, dug-in artillery and anti-tank guns. Konev, on the other hand, encountered fierce resistance from the 21st Panzer Division.

IN BERLIN, in April 1945, the city's inhabitants hardly registered the sound of artillery fire which was an ever-present reality in what passed for normal life in that doomed city. Amid the smoking debris of what had once been one of Europe's major urban and cultural centres, life somehow managed to continue. Civilians were outnumbered by the military, who ranged from the last of the old regular German army to a rabble of 'foreign legions', party organisations and virtually untrained conscripts, many of whom were as young as 14 years. By day and night the Allied and Red air forces

flew over the city adding to the piles of rubble below and stoking the ever-burning fires on almost every street.

RED REVENGE

Remaining in the city, when much of the Party and civil administration had already left for the southern hinterland of Germany, Hitler used his last reserves of power to condemn thousands more to death at a time when all was already lost. His Party henchmen competed to add to the death total. All through the early days of April 1945, squads of Party fanatics roamed the debris of Berlin seeking out 'deserters' and hanging them on the spot from nearby lamp posts. With the



breakdown of authority, they had been set free from any restraints remaining. Berlin was being turned into a carnal pit.

Away across the Oder, the Soviets had encountered similar testimony to Nazi rule. In their advances across Poland and East Prussia they had uncovered many examples of concentration and extermination camps and mass burial pits, where the Nazis had attempted to hide their crimes. Within the Soviet Union itself, the brutal rule of the *Gauleiters* had condemned millions of Soviet citizens to death by local forced labour or deportation to the labour camps of the Reich. The Red Army was in no mood to be generous to a vanquished enemy.

SUMMONED HOME

On 1 April, Marshals Zhukov and Konev had arrived in Moscow for a briefing on the subject of the Battle for Berlin. Stalin informed them that the devious and conniving Western Allies were planning a swift Berlin operation with the sole object of capturing the city before the Red Army could arrive – an announcement which, not surprisingly in view of the recent achievements of the Red Army, incensed both of the tough commanders.

They had expected to mount the attack on Berlin in early May, but in these special circumstances they would accelerate all preparations and be ready to move well before the Anglo-Americans could get themselves solidly inside German territory.

RACE TO GLORY

Which of the two fronts – Zhukov's 1st Belorussian or Konev's 1st Ukrainian – should have the task, and the honour, of driving straight for Berlin? It was a question to which the wily Georgian left an ambiguous answer; he drew on the map a demarcation line between their commands, but

"WHO WILL TAKE BERLIN?"

STALIN KNEW THAT HE needed successful generals to win the war with Hitler's Germany, but was also aware of the danger to his own power that they represented. In November 1944 he had decreed that Marshal Zhukov's 1st Belorussian Front would be given the honour of taking Berlin. By the end of March 1945 it was clear that allowing Zhukov, who was already a national hero, to take sole credit for capturing Berlin would give him far too much status in the post-war Soviet Union.

Stalin encouraged Ivan Konev, who had his own ambition to take the city, to detach two tank armies from his primary drive on Dresden and a meeting with the Western Allies on the Elbe. While Zhukov's front was still assigned to take the city, the Soviet dictator had in effect set up a race between his two most successful generals. A third Front – Rokossovsky's 2nd Belorussian – would attack north of Berlin to provide flank security for the entire operation.



Top: Joseph Stalin was a consummate manipulator, who used the rivalry between Zhukov and Konev to speed the capture of Berlin.

Above: Georgi Konstantinovich Zhukov was the pre-eminent Soviet commander of World War II. While he respected Konev professionally, there was no love lost between the two outstanding generals – a fact that Stalin was quite happy to use to his own advantage.

Below: Ivan Stepanovich Konev was one of Russia's toughest, most courageous generals. He overcame disgrace in 1941 to command Fronts at Kursk, in the Ukraine, and in the final drive into Germany.





Above and below: Germans await the judgment of Solomon. POWs may not return to their homeland for a decade, if ever. Civilians face rape, extortion, starvation and gradually, for a few, the hope of compassion.

Bottom: The German resistance in the East held up against vast material inferiority. Despite lack of air power, little armour and disintegrating communications, the Ostheer gave ground only grudgingly.



ended it at Lübben, 20 miles short of the capital.

When the last offensive of the Red Army was launched its aims were to advance to the Elbe and to annihilate all organised German resistance before them – which would entail the capture of Berlin and the reduction of its garrison. For this purpose, Marshals Zhukov and Konev had some 1,640,000 men under their command, with 41,600 guns and mortars, 6,300 tanks, and the support of three air armies and 8,400 aircraft.

Opposite them were 7 panzer and 65 infantry divisions in some sort of order. There were also around a hundred independent battalions, either remnants of obliterated divisions or formed from old men, children, the sick, criminals or the simple-minded.

IMPROVISED DEFENCE

They had been collected by SS teams sent out from the Chancellery bunkers, in which Hitler and his demented entourage were living out their last fantasies. Their orders were to conjure yet another army

from the wreckage of the Thousand Year Reich.

Unorganised and half-trained though they might have been, most of the German formations defending Berlin against the Red Army nevertheless fought at first with a blind ferocity and blistering efficiency. They demonstrated yet again that the epitome of high morale in combat is that of the cornered rat – which is the reason he so often escapes.

But there would be no escape for the Germans now.

THUNDER OF THE GUNS

At dawn on 16 April, a tremendous artillery and air bombardment opened all along the Oder and Neisse Rivers, and out of the Soviet bridgeheads stormed the first waves of shock troops. There was no finesse in these massed attacks. The Russian artillery was arranged wheel-to-wheel in rows, and thundered away for hours in a massive preliminary barrage. When the bombardment lifted the tanks moved forward. The T-34/85s and the IS-2s lumbered from their hides. They carried with them the



STREET FIGHTING

HITLER ORDERED THAT THE DEFENDERS OF BERLIN FIGHT "TO the last man and the last bullet". However, three of Zhukov's armies were in the outer suburbs of the city by 21 April, with General Ivan Chuikov's 8th Guards Army and the 1st Guards Tank Army in the lead. At the same time, Konev's 3rd and 4th Guards Tank Armies were approaching the southern suburbs, having taken the General Staff headquarters at Zossen. But fighting into the city was a nightmare: the German defenders blew up buildings to block the advance, and die-hard groups had to be winkled out of cellars and ruins by direct artillery fire and flame-throwers. By 27 April, the Germans held a strip about ten miles by three, and the Russian tanks were moving in for the kill. There was no hope for the Germans, and on 30 April Hitler took his own life and deserted the German people.

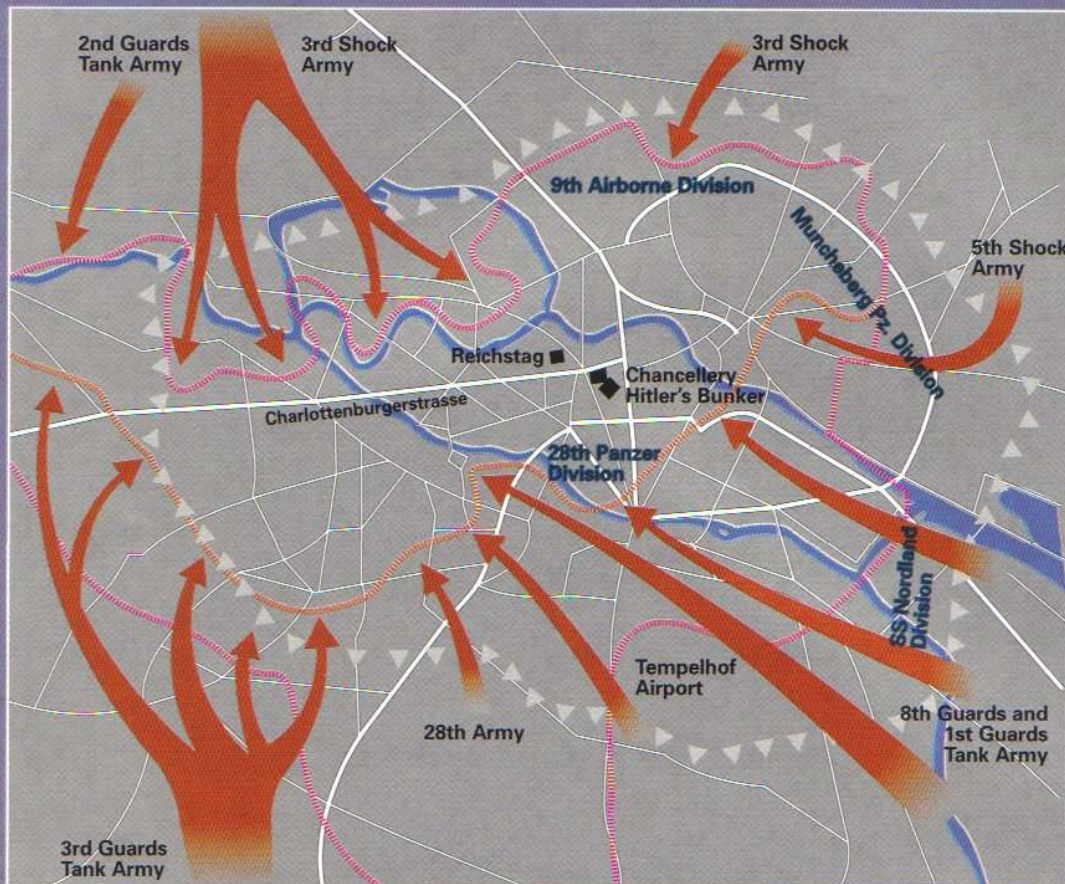


Above and top right: Street fighting is amongst the most brutal of all forms of warfare, and in the struggle for Berlin the fighting reached a ferocity which has seldom been matched in history. Although some officers and men found it difficult to shoot down schoolboys in uniform, many did not. The Red Army had taken immense casualties, and the soldiers, inflamed by front-line propaganda decrying the German soldier as a beast, needed little provocation to commit bestial acts themselves.

Left: The last attack on the Reichstag was launched at 13.00 on 30 April. Hitler was in his bunker barely a hundred metres away; three hours later his body was being cremated. At 22.50 the Russian flag was finally flying atop the Reichstag.

Top left: It was appropriate that General Vasily Ivanovich Chuikov was the first General approached by the Germans with surrender terms: the tough peasant from Tula had commanded his Army all the way from one hell in Stalingrad to another in Berlin.

Battle of Berlin



Above: On Tuesday 8 May, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signed the unconditional surrender of Germany. Marshal Georgi Zhukov, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Soviet Forces, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Eisenhower's Deputy Supreme Commander in the West, signed for the Allies. The war in Europe was over.

- ▲ Outer defence perimeter
- Front line 26 April
- Front line 28 April

'descent' infantry squads riding on their hulls with their submachine guns and grenades ready to fall upon any infantry positions that were left in a state to defend themselves.

It took Zhukov's northern thrust two days to smash through some four miles to reach the Seelöwe Heights. His southern thrust had not done much better, advancing only eight miles. At that point they had seen no sign of a crack in the German defences despite the casualties on both sides.

Konev's shock troops were not so strongly opposed, and they advanced eight miles the first day. On 18 April, Konev fed in two tank armies and ordered them to fight their way to the north west, into the Berlin suburbs. His right flank brushed Lübben, but only just.

BREAKTHROUGH

Perhaps inspired by competition, Zhukov now drove his infantry and tank

armies forward with ruthless vigour. By 19 April both his thrusts had advanced 20 miles on a front almost 40 miles in width, destroying as they did so the bulk of the German Ninth Army, immobilised in the path of the attack by lack of fuel. On 21 April General Chuikov reported that his Eighth Guards Army, which he had led all the way from Stalingrad, was into Berlin's southeastern suburbs.

Within the city, Hitler inhabited a world of dreams. Already unhinged by the attempt on his life the previous July, the Führer's mind withdrew into a realm where the German army and Party structures of 1939 still existed. He ordered nonexistent armies about his large-scale maps as though he was still in command of a mighty force.

The reality was otherwise. Outside the bunkers, what remained of the German army and the Party machine shattered into a myriad of

individuals who took the precautions for the future that they thought fit. This ranged from murdering old rivals or suspected political opponents to burying home movies and looted treasures from all over Europe. In a final frantic orgy of destruction, the Party anti-deserter squads carried out their last 'executions' and then ran to the west.

DRIVE TO THE WEST

Konev, having thrown his own counter into the battle for the capital, now devoted the bulk of his endeavour due westwards towards the Elbe. By 20 April, two of his tank armies had reached Luckenwald – thus splitting the German Army Group Centre from Berlin and the defences in the north. He then drove two more armies given to him by STAVKA up towards Potsdam where on 25 April they linked up with one of Zhukov's Guards tank armies which had

come around the north of Berlin. The city, its inhabitants and its 200,000-man garrison were surrounded.

GERMANY DIVIDED

On the same day, units of Fifth Guards Army reached the Elbe at Torgau and within minutes were exchanging drinks, hats, buttons and photographs with Americans of the US First Army. The scenes of triumphant comradeship and co-operation which followed were repeated up and down the central axis of Germany, as soldiers who had fought westwards from Stalingrad met those who had fought eastwards from Normandy. During the brief period in which they were allowed to fraternise, they learned to recognise each others' qualities. It is a tragedy that friendships made then were not allowed to continue.

By 27 April, Red Army tanks were in the Potsdamer Platz and



through the sound of artillery fire the chatter of small arms could be heard, even in the Chancellery bunker where Hitler still held court with an entourage of the Party faithful.

Finally, in the afternoon of 30 April, Hitler took the inevitable step. Escaping responsibility and retribution, he took his own life along with that of the loyal Eva Braun. Their bodies were burned in the garden outside the bunker and the flames added their small glimmer to the holocaust about them.

THE STREETS OF BERLIN

Around the bunker the Red Army moved into a desolate wilderness of ruined buildings where isolated pockets of resistance still lingered. Many of the remaining strongpoints were manned by various units of Waffen-SS 'foreign legions'—

men who knew only too well what to expect once they fell into Red Army hands, and so preferred to go down fighting.

With such pockets of resistance the Red Army commanders wasted no time. They quickly called forward a number of 152-mm howitzers and sited them close to the source of the resistance. Then the howitzers simply blasted them away. Red Army cameramen recorded the scene to show workers back in the USSR what their labours had made possible.

On 1 May, General Chuikov, now well inside the Berlin city centre, was approached by General Krebs, the Chief of the German General Staff, with three other officers bearing white flags desirous of negotiating a surrender. With almost unbelievable effrontery, the German general opened

the conversation with the remark: "Today is the 1st of May, a great holiday for our two nations."

"A GREAT HOLIDAY"

Considering the outrages carried out in his country by the nationals of the man addressing him, Chuikov's reply was a model of restraint.

"We have a great holiday today. How things are with you over there, it is less easy to say!"

But the first moves towards an official end to hostilities in Europe had been made.

Berlin surrendered unconditionally on 2 May. On 4 May Field Marshal Montgomery took the surrender of all German forces in the north. On 7 May the 'Unconditional surrender of Germany to the Western Allies and to Russia' was agreed, the instrument itself signed by

General Jodl for the defeated, and Generals Bedell Smith and Suslaparov for the victors, General Sevez also signing for France.

Stalin was outraged: he wanted the final surrender to be signed in Berlin, which his army had captured. The next day, Field Marshal Keitel, Marshal Georgi Zhukov and British Air Marshal Tedder signed a second unconditional surrender. The war in Europe was at an end.

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

Before committing suicide the Führer had made a will leaving the leadership of his country to Admiral Dönitz. A man of enormous but demonic gifts, Hitler had lifted his country from a position of weakness to unparalleled power, and then dropped her back into chaos again — in just 12 years.

Below: Field Marshal Montgomery joins Marshals Zhukov and Rokossovsky through the streets of Berlin after the final German surrender.





Heinkel He 111

The HE 111H became the definitive version of the Luftwaffe's standard bomber. It served in a variety of roles throughout the war.

THE HEINKEL HE III was the mainstay of the Luftwaffe campaigns throughout the war, despite its complete obsolescence by 1942. This technicality was no comfort to Londoners suffering under the Blitz in 1940, who remembered the distinctive and menacing throb of the Heinkel's two unsynchronised engines with terror.

The He 111 was designed under the leadership of Siegfried and Walter Günter, responding to demands at the time of the Luftwaffe's secret development, for a fast airliner

with minimum adaptation for a bomber role. The first prototype was flown at Marienehe on 25 February 1935. The third prototype, forerunner of the He 111A bomber version, possessed a performance superior to many of Europe's fighters then in service.

In its civil guise it was demonstrated at Tempelhof Airport, Berlin on the morning of 10 January 1936. To any informed observer its sleek lines showed its suitability for a combat role.

TYPICAL NAZI TRICK

The dual role for the He 111

was later seen by the Allies as a piece of German duplicity, since it was designed and flew at a time when Germany was still forbidden to have an air force. They had a point but the drive behind this versatile design was also commercial. Heinkel knew that there would be a limited market for high-speed prestige airliners, there was however a good chance that Germany under Hitler would soon be looking for combat aircraft. This would be a far bigger market.

The He 111B-1 bomber saw action in the Spanish Civil War as part of the Condor Legion's

Kampfgruppe 88. Some 30 bombers served from February 1937 to the close of the war in 1939 and their high speed enabled them to evade Republican fighters and flak fire. On one occasion they co-operated with Italian bombers from Franco's *Aviacion Legionaria* to pulverise Nationalist defences around Bilbao.

The surviving 58 Heinkels of the total of 75 that had been sent to Spain remained with the Spanish Air Force, which later received more modern versions of the bombers as exports during World War II.



Based on their experience of operations in Spain, the Luftwaffe's strategic planners assumed that a fast and lightly armed bomber would be able to operate with impunity in hostile air space, a theory that would be disproved in the Battle of Britain three years later. The He 111 would have the dubious distinction of being the first Luftwaffe aircraft to be brought down over Britain in World War II when during an attack on shipping at Scapa Flow on 28 October 1939 an He 111P of Stab/KG 26 force-landed near Dalkeith.

NOSE-JOB

Two almost identical versions of the He 111 – the P and H models – with the distinctive asymmetrical fully glazed nose, entered service at the beginning of World War II. In a way typically contrary of German planners, it was the P, powered by two 1,020 hp Daimler-Benz

DB 601a engines, that was supplanted by the H model. The H was powered by two 1,350 hp Junkers Jumo 211F-2 engines. This power-plant was now adopted by the Luftwaffe, which freed Daimler-Benz factories to concentrate on fighter engine production.

The P model was eventually relegated to the role of glider-tug towing the Gotha Go 242 transport and assault glider with *Luftlandegeschwader 1*. The H model became the most widely used version of the He 111. Popular with its crews, it possessed good handling characteristics and maintained excellent stability even with maximum bomb loads. The fully glazed nose gave the pilot and bomb aimer excellent visibility, though when the sun was behind the He 111 it could reflect off the panels and this compelled pilots to use tinted goggles.

The Heinkel was relatively

Facing page: By the end of the war the He 111-H had equipped over 30 Kampfgruppen and ten Transportgruppen. The bomber soldiered on with the Spanish Air Force into the 1950s and 60s, albeit fitted with Rolls Royce engines.

Above and below: The vulnerability of the He 111, owing to its poor defensive armament, had been shown up in the invasion of Poland in September 1939. The small Polish airforce, equipped with obsolete monoplane fighters shot down a disturbing number of Heinkels. After its poor performance in the Battle of Britain it was relegated, in the West, to a transport role only.



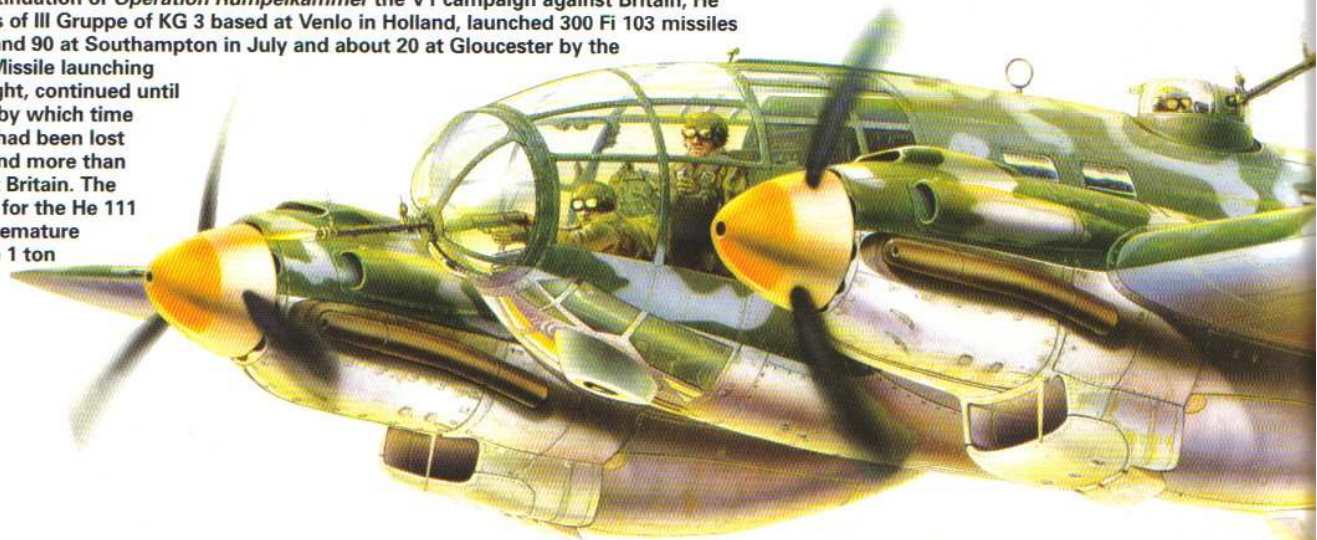
economical to manufacture in both man-hours and materials and was easy to maintain in the field. Though it quickly became obsolete in the West, it could be used effectively on the Eastern Front because of the less

sophisticated Soviet defences. Its major drawback in this theatre was its lack of range which meant that it could not attack industrial targets around the Urals.

In the hot-house atmosphere

Heinkel HE 111-H

IN THE SUMMER of 1944 the He 111 became the first bomber to deliver an air launched cruise missile. As a continuation of *Operation Rumpelkammer* the V1 campaign against Britain, He 111H-22 bombers of III Gruppe of KG 3 based at Venlo in Holland, launched 300 Fi 103 missiles against London and 90 at Southampton in July and about 20 at Gloucester by the end of August. Missile launching operations, at night, continued until 14 January 1945 by which time some 77 aircraft had been lost from all causes and more than 1,200 V1s fired at Britain. The major draw-back for the He 111 crews was the premature detonation of the 1 ton warhead.



Fuel system

Fuel was contained in two tanks in each wing, emergency tanks were fitted immediately outboard of the nacelles. Fuel was automatically pumped from the secondary tank when the main tanks were down to 200 litres.

Fieseler Fi 103 (V-1)

With the withdrawal of V-1 launching sites into central Holland, the UK lay beyond their range. This led to the development of air-launching.



Above: 58 of the 75 He 111Bs sent to the Legion Kondor in Spain survived the Civil War. They remained in Spain, operated by the Spanish air force's 14th and 15th's regiments.

Below: This dump near Munich was photographed in 1946. Among the wrecks awaiting disposal are He 111s, Me 262s, Ju 88s and at least one Messerschmitt Bf 110.



of suspicion in Nazi Germany, Dr Ernst Heinkel was suspected of keeping the He 111 in production after it had become obsolete simply for personal profit. As a result of this, Heinkel lost the confidence of the Nazi leadership by 1942 and with it the direct control of his factories. This in turn led to work on his major innovation, the He 280, the world's first turbojet fighter, being ignored. Had he been encouraged in this field it is arguable that the Luftwaffe might have regained its tactical dominance in Europe by mid 1943.

DEATH IN THE SKIES

By the beginning of the Battle of Britain the He 111H had almost entirely replaced the He 111P series. The airframe was essentially unchanged, but the powerplant was the Jumo 211. From the outset, the He 111H, with its 270mph (435km/h) top speed, proved a difficult aircraft to shoot down (compared with the Dornier Do 17) and proved

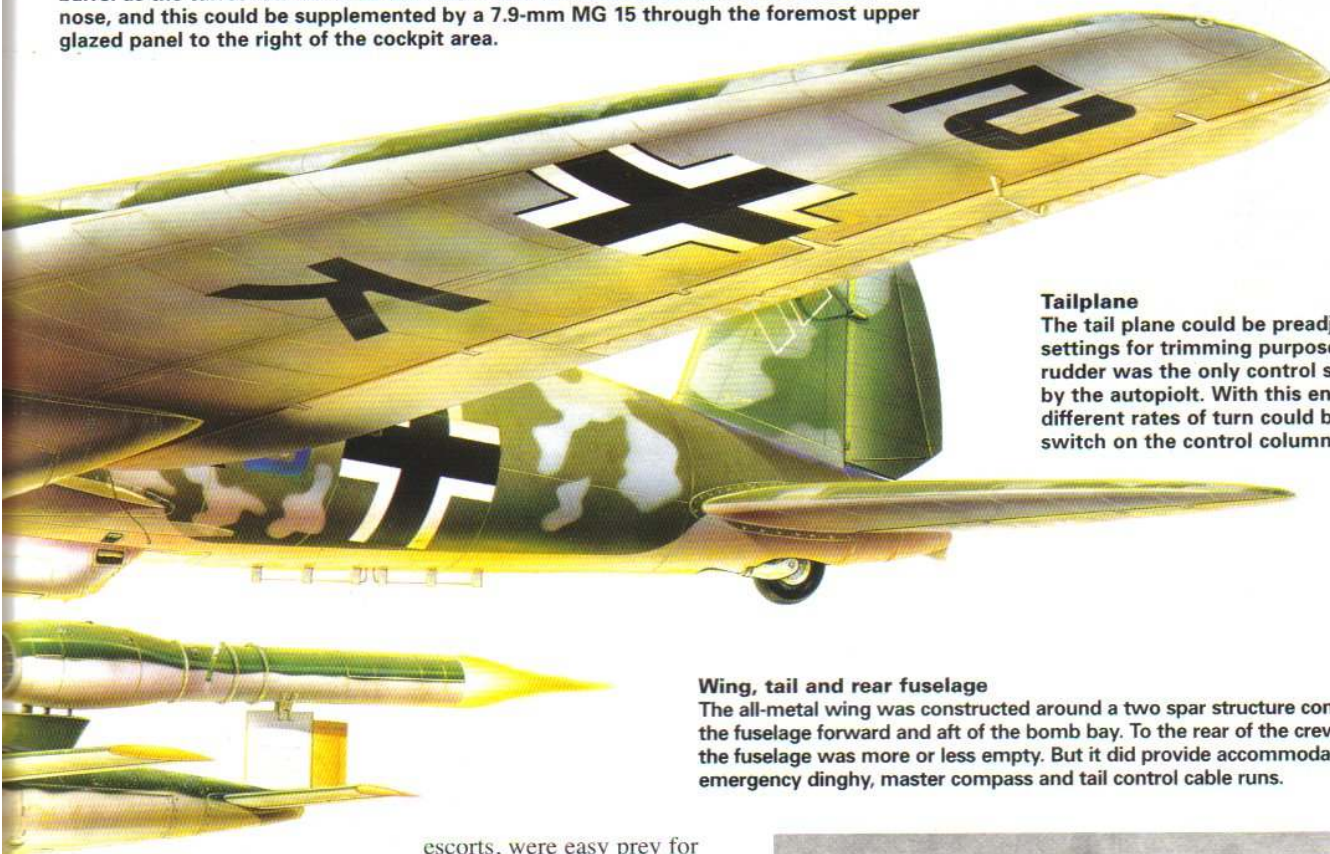
capable of weathering heavy battle damage. The 17 *Gruppen* flying the He 111H during the battle operated an average strength of about 500 (compared with He 111P series aircraft, of which some 40 served in the reconnaissance role with the *Aufklärungsgruppen*). They lost some 246 of their number in air combat in the course of the four-month battle. Perhaps the main significance of their losses lay in their five-man crews, whereas the other bombers, the Ju 88 and Do 17, were crewed by only four.

Among the outstanding attacks by He 111s were those by KG 55 on the Bristol aircraft factory on 25 September, and the same unit's devastating raid on Supermarine's factory at Southampton the following day.

He 111H-5, which incorporated additional fuel tanks in place of the wing bomb cells, and featured two external racks each capable of lifting a

Defensive armament

On the He 111H-22 defensive weapons were usually reduced to two or three guns. The dorsal turret mounted a 13-mm MG 131 machine-gun. A vane protruding from the rear of the turret, inline with the gun, off-set the aerodynamic drag caused by the weapon's barrel as the turret rotated. A 20-mm MG FF cannon was mounted in the extreme nose, and this could be supplemented by a 7.9-mm MG 15 through the foremost upper glazed panel to the right of the cockpit area.



Tailplane

The tail plane could be preadjusted to three settings for trimming purposes, while the rudder was the only control surface activated by the autopilot. With this engaged, three different rates of turn could be selected via a switch on the control column.

Wing, tail and rear fuselage

The all-metal wing was constructed around a two spar structure continuing through the fuselage forward and aft of the bomb bay. To the rear of the crew compartment, the fuselage was more or less empty. But it did provide accommodation for the emergency dinghy, master compass and tail control cable runs.

2,205-lb (1000-kg) bomb. He 111H-5s were widely used during the winter Blitz of 1940-41, these aircraft carrying the majority of the heavy bombs and parachute mines to fall on British cities in that campaign.

CONVOY TO HELL

The He 111H-6 was eventually the most widely-used of all He 111s. The torpedo-armed H-6 operating with *Kampfgeschwader* (KG) 26 in Norway that became the scourge of the Arctic convoys to Murmansk in northern Russia. The Ju 88 bombers of KG 30 and the He 111H-6s of 1/KG26 perfected their anti-shipping tactics in 1942, climaxing in the infamous attack on convoy PQ 17 between July 5-10. The British Admiralty ordered the 34 ship convoy to scatter after it had received intelligence that the German battleship KMS Tirpitz was about to attack. The information was incorrect but the ships, now unprotected by

escorts, were easy prey for U Boats, Ju 88s and He 111s and only 13 reached their destination in the USSR. Ten had been victims of air launched torpedoes dropped by He 111s.

Despite their torpedo-carrying ability, most He 111H-6s were used as ordinary bombers.

The He 111H-7 and He 111H-9 designations covered minor equipment alterations in the He 111H-6, while the He 111H-8 featured an outsize balloon fender designed to deflect barrage balloon cables to cutters in the wing tips; these were found to be of little use so surviving He 111H-8s were later converted to glider tugs, as He 111H-8/R2s. The He 111H-10 was similar to the He 111H-6 but included a 20-mm MG FF cannon in the ventral gondola and Kuto-Nase cable cutters in the wings.

PATHFINDER ROLE

Following the successful use of He 111Hs as pathfinders by



Above: At the end of the Battle of Britain, the He 111 force was redistributed. The majority were assigned to the Eastern Front. However strong units were also sent to the Mediterranean and Norway.

KGr 100, this role featured prominently in subsequent development of the aircraft, the He 111H-14, He 111H-16/R3 and He 111H-18 being specially fitted with FuG Samos, Peil-GV, APZ 5 and FuG Korfu radio equipment for the task; He 111H-14s were flown on operations by *Sonderkommando Rastedter* of KG 40 in 1944.

As the He 111 was joined by such later bombers as the Heinkel He 177 Greif, Dornier

Do 217 and others, it underwent parallel development as a transport. the He 111H-20/R1 was could accommodate 16 paratroops and the He 111H-20/R2 was equipped as a freight-carrying glider tug. Nevertheless, bomber versions continued to serve, particularly on the Eastern Front where the He 111H-20/R3 with a 4,410-lb (2000-kg) bomb load and the He 111H-20/R4, carrying 20 110-lb (50-kg) fragmentation



Above: The fully-glazed nose of the He 111P series onwards, afforded excellent all-round observation for the navigator and pilot, but little protection from intercepting fighters or flak.

Below: Although Heinkel concentrated on developing the He 111 as a military bomber, it also worked on airline versions, subsequently used by Lufthansa.



bombs, operated by night.

Perhaps the most outstanding, albeit forlorn, of all operations by the He 111H bombers and transports was that in support of the Wehrmacht's attempt to relieve the German 6th Army at Stalingrad between November 1942 and February 1943. As the entire available force of Junkers Ju 52/3m transports was inadequate for the supply task, He 111 bombers of KG 27, KG 55 and I./KG 100 joined KGrzbV 5 and KGrzbV 20 (flying an assortment of He 111D, F, P and H transports) and embarked on the job of flying in food and ammunition to the beleaguered army. Although the bombers were occasionally able to attack Russian armour, bad weather severely hampered the supply operations, and by the end of the Stalingrad campaign the Luftwaffe had lost 165 He 111s, a sacrifice from which the *Kampfgeschwader* never fully recovered.

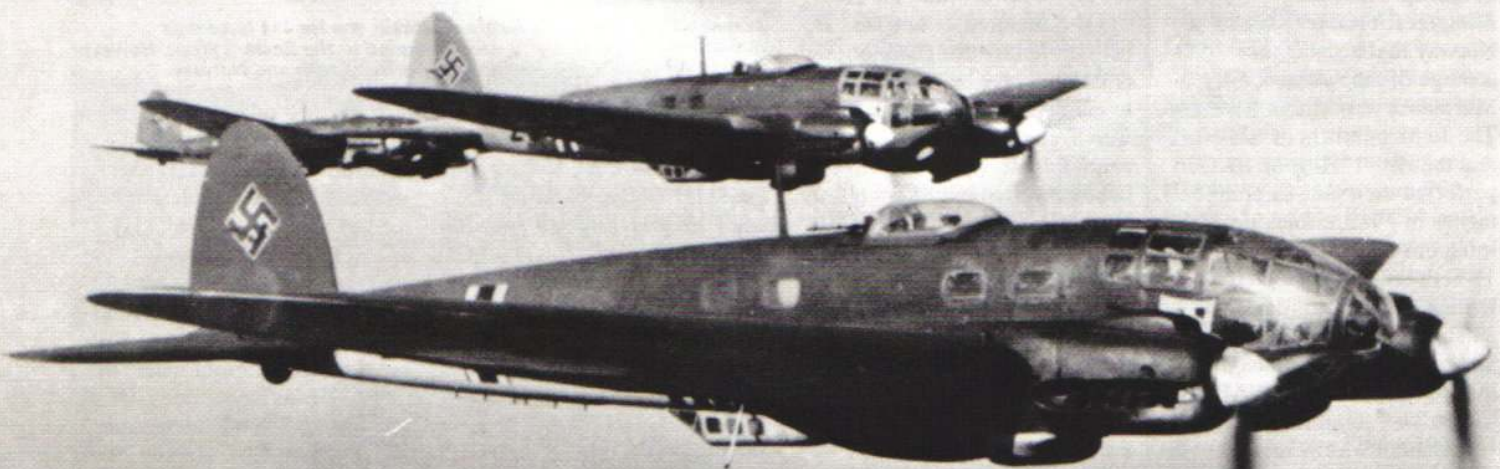
The Heinkel served as the testing platform for several advanced air-launched weapons. These included the FX 1400 Fritz X and Blohm und Voss BV 246 *Hagelkorn* – glide bombs – very early versions of the modern "Smart Bomb", and the *Friedensengel* – Angel of Peace, gliding torpedo – an early stand-off weapon.

By 1944 the He 111 might have been totally outclassed, but with skilled and determined

crews it could still be used to spring some nasty surprises. In the summer of 1944 He 111s of *Kampfgeschwader* 4, 27, 53 and 55 of the IV Air Corps scored a notable success. On the night of June 21–22, KG 4 led the other two *Kampfgeschwader* to the Soviet airfield at Poltava in the Ukraine and dropped flares to illuminate the target. The other squadrons roared across the airfield and caught USAAF B-17 Flying Fortresses and P-51 Mustangs that had landed after a shuttle attack on Berlin. The raid destroyed 43 B-17 bombers, 15 P-51 Mustang fighters and damaged another 26 aircraft.

COVERT OPERATIONS

On the night of 15 December 1944 as part of operation *Wacht am Rhein* – the German offensive in the Ardennes – He 111s and Ju 52 tri-motors were used to deploy airborne troops. The plan, of the so-designated *Unternehmen Stosser*, was an ultimately futile attempt to drop a reinforced battalion of 1,200 paratroops from FJR 6 behind American lines near Malmédy. The paratroops were meant to spread confusion behind the enemy lines in conjunction with Otto Skorzeny's covert saboteurs. But poor visibility made identifying the drop zone impossible and the paratroopers were dropped in the wrong locations and over too large an area to deploy effectively.



The He 111P adopted the smooth nose profile with extensive glazing that so characterised the aircraft from then on. The design incorporated a nose-gun mounted offset to port, and a small hinge-up windscreen to improve the pilot's view during landing.

Heinkel He 111 H-2

THIS AIRCRAFT OF IX KG 53 WAS DAMAGED IN ACTION at the climax of the Battle of Britain – 15 September 1940. It was forced to land at Armentiers with two wounded crewmen. Recent computerised research suggests that it was probably bounced by two Spitfires of No. 66 Fighter Squadron.

Accommodation

The standard complement was five. The pilot sat back in the glazed section, offset to port. The navigator/bombadier sat alongside for take-off, but for operations moved forward to the extreme nose. In the rear was the radio-operator/dorsal gunner. Two further gunners were carried, to operate the machine-guns in the beams and central gondola – known as the *Sterbebett* (death-bed).

Armament

The He 111H-2 had better defensive armament than its predecessors. It deployed five MG 15s, firing through beam hatches, from the dorsal, the rear of the central gondola and from the spherical nose-mounting. The next major variant, the H-6, often featured an MG 17 in the tail cone.

Payload

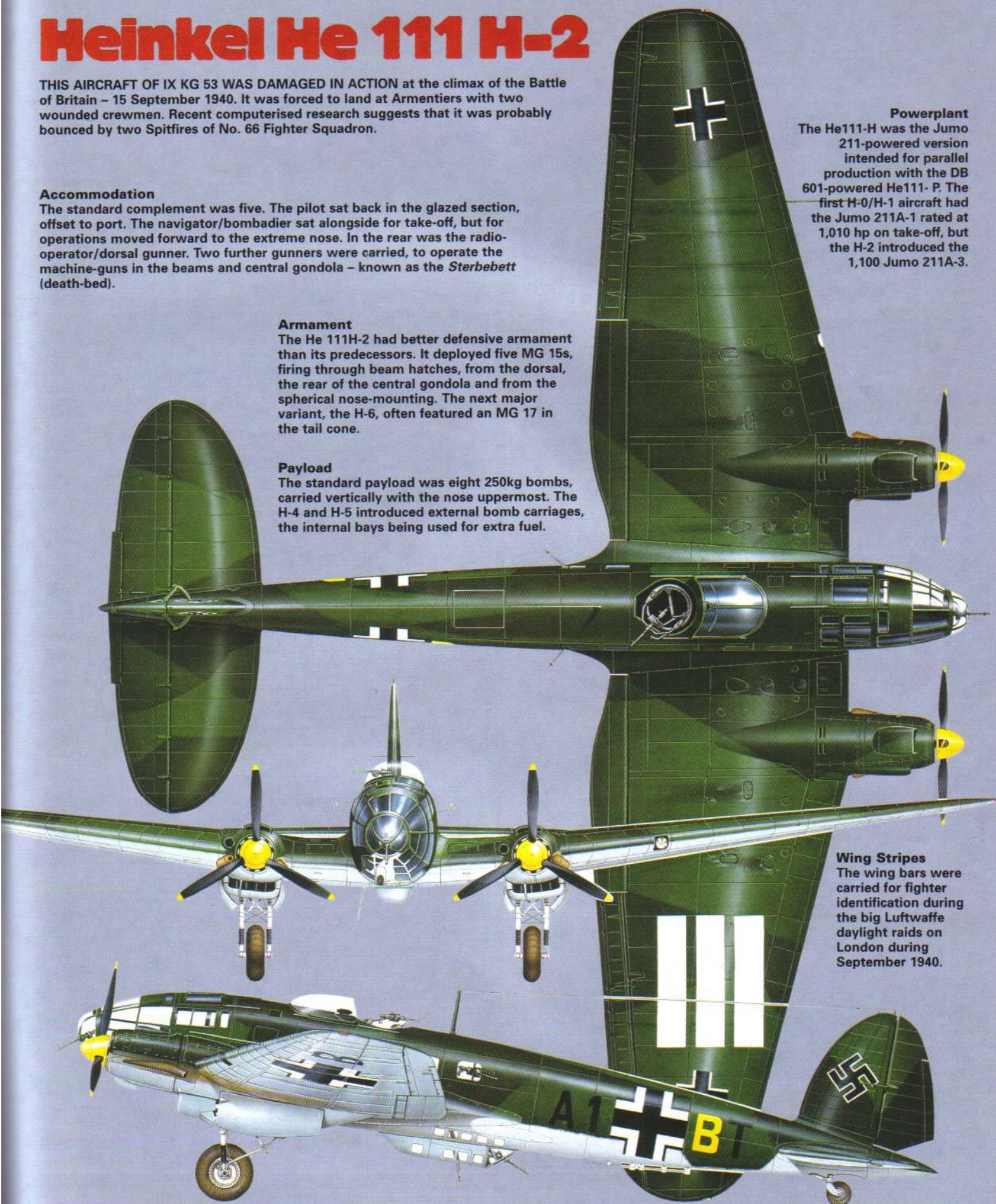
The standard payload was eight 250kg bombs, carried vertically with the nose uppermost. The H-4 and H-5 introduced external bomb carriages, the internal bays being used for extra fuel.

Powerplant

The He111-H was the Jumo 211-powered version intended for parallel production with the DB 601-powered He111-P. The first H-0/H-1 aircraft had the Jumo 211A-1 rated at 1,010 hp on take-off, but the H-2 introduced the 1,100 Jumo 211A-3.

Wing Stripes

The wing bars were carried for fighter identification during the big Luftwaffe daylight raids on London during September 1940.





SPECIAL VARIANTS

Above: Joining two He 111H-6 fuselages, by means of a new wing section carrying a fifth Jumo engine, Heinkel produced the He 111Z-1 Zwilling (siamese twin) tug for the giant Me 321 glider. Some 12 aircraft were built.

Right: Some 30 He 111H-6s were converted with balloon cable fenders and cutters in an attempt to defeat the barrage balloons that hampered low-level attacks against British cities. At least two distinct arrangements were used, but neither was particularly effective.

Below: Based on the H-10 and equipped with special systems including FuG Samos, the direction-finding Peil-GV, APZ 5 and FuG 351 Korfu, the He 111H-14 was a specialised pathfinder. Sonderkommando Rastetter of KG 40 used the 30 H-14s delivered as pathfinders from Bourdeaux-Mérignac during 1944.



Below: An alternative store for the H-6's external racks was the 'Dobbas' transporter pack. In this instance, the pack has been modified to accommodate a 50-mm Pak anti-tank gun. By virtue of its size, the He 111 was never destined to succeed in a tankbuster role.

Bottom left: This machine was modified with an HeS 8 turbojet mounted in a nacelle beneath the centre fuselage. This engine was used in the He 280 (twin jet-engined fighter) test programme. The He 111 in various forms was also used as a tug for He 280s during gliding tests.





Above: One He 111P was fitted with rocket-assisted take-off gear for experimental purposes. The installation was not adopted for service use and little is known of its success or otherwise.

Right: At least one He 111H-6 was used in tests with torpedoes equipped with the L 10 Friedensengel (peace-angel) gliding equipment - intended to give stand-off capability to the torpedo.



Below: The H-6 was able to mount a pair of torpedoes on PVC wing root racks. Such aircraft were employed by KG 26 from bases in Norway against Allied supply convoys running north to Murmansk and Archangel.





PARTY MEMBERS

Without military decorations of his own, Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler had to make do with Party awards to adorn his uniform. He is seen here wearing an SA Bronze Sports badge and the Golden Party Badge on his left breast pocket. The ribbon in the buttonhole of the right pocket is the Blood Order, awarded to those who took part in the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch.



To be a Nazi Party member was a definite advantage, career-wise, in the early years of Hitler's rule.

NSDAP PARTY membership was not always something to be trumpeted in Nazi Germany, particularly after the war turned against the Reich. People needed a scapegoat and the inefficiency and corruption of the Party State gave them an easy target of hatred. But during the years of Hitler's ascendancy, membership of the Party was often the only route to success. Ambitious men who had not already joined the movement were quick to take the plunge. Membership grew from less than a million in 1933 to nearly three million in 1935. By 1945, there were over eight and a half million paid-up members of the NSDAP.

MEMBERSHIP DISPLAY

Party officials were easy to recognise because they wore the brown uniform and extensive decoration which led to their nickname of 'Golden Pheasants'. SA and SS men also wore distinctive uniforms. However, the bulk of the membership of the Party were ordinary citizens, who were usually identified by their party membership badges or the lapel pins indicating that they belonged to one of the many specialist party organisations, or state bodies over which the party had control.

Introduced in 1920 and

NAZI SYMBOLS



intended to be worn by any active member of the National Socialist German Worker's Party, the Party Badge was a simple swastika with a red enamelled surround. It was manufactured in huge numbers, at least ten million having been awarded before the end of World War II.

The Party membership badge was generally worn in addition to any other decorations. For civilians, or for military personnel in civilian dress, these normally took the form of lapel pins or buttonholes.

Above: By far the largest source of Party membership was the NSDAP's paramilitary arm, the Sturm Abteilung, or SA. Most of the regalia and equipment carried was specific to the SA – seen here are the dagger, rally armband, sports armband and badges – but the small party membership badge was worn with honour.

Right: One symbol which could only be worn by Party members – indeed, which could only be worn by members of the SS, and only those in good standing with the Reichsführer-SS, was the Death's Head ring. In the personal gift of Heinrich Himmler, it recognised the wearer's devotion to duty and loyalty to the Führer.



GOLDEN PARTY BADGE



Above: Adolf Hitler seen at Berchtesgaden in the summer of 1943. The Führer's personal style was simple and unostentatious. To the end of his life he would only wear three awards on his uniforms. Two of these commemorated his service in World War I – the Iron Cross First Class and the Wound Badge. Above those he wore the Goldenes Parteiabzeichen, or Golden Party Badge.

Right: Julius Streicher talks with Joachim von Ribbentrop. Streicher, who was Gauleiter of Franconia, publisher of der Stürmer, and the NSDAP's arch-anti-semitic, was a wearer of the Gold Party Badge. Initially, the badge could only be worn by the first 100,000 members of the NSDAP, and it became a symbol of the Nazi 'Old Guard'.



Above: Although the Golden Party Badge was intended for the original members of the Nazi Party, Hitler later widened its scope by awarding it to "those who have particularly distinguished themselves in the National Socialist Movement, and who have helped in the attainment of its goals." Later party members who were awarded the badge included Albert Speer and Hitler's military 'Yes-man', Wilhelm Keitel.





Above: Founded by the Air Ministry in 1933, the Reichsluftschütz Bund (RLB, or Reich Air Defence League) was a voluntary civil defence organisation taken over by the NSDAP in 1944.

Below: Lapel badges of the Reichsnährstand or Reich Food Estate. This organisation was responsible for all National Socialist agricultural policy. Leader Walther Darré, came up with the catchy slogan Blut und Boden – 'Blood and Soil'.



Above: Lapel badges worn by members of the Reichs Arbeitsdienst, or Reich Labour Service. The Nazis were great believers in the notion that all citizens had an obligation to work for the state. The badge of the RAD included ears of wheat symbolising work on the land, and a spade which represented manual labour.

Right: The Party did its best to organise every worker in Germany, from the largest industries to the smallest one-man operation. This badge was worn by the Reichsbund Deutscher Kleingärtner – the National League of German Allotment Growers.

Below: Lapel badges worn by members and participants in Kraft durch Freude or 'Strength through Joy.' The massive leisure organisation was one of the key routes used by the NSDAP in spreading the National Socialist message through the general populace.



The Reich Culture Chamber or Reichskulturkammer controlled all artistic and creative life in Hitler's Germany. Without the approval of the Chamber no artist, theatrical performer, writer or broadcaster could do any work.

contents

Secret Hitler Files

Anti-semitism	12
Backers	07
Berlin Bunker	32
Biography 1 1889-1919	05
Biography 2 1919-23	22
Biography 3 1923-1928	24
Biography 4 1928-1933	27
Biography 5 1933-39	30
Biography 6 1939-1945	31
Churchill	28
Communism	21
Doctors	04
Female Appeal	08
Final Solution	13
Geli Raubal	01
Generals	11
Homelife	14
Last Days in the Bunker	32
'Mein Kampf!'	18
Munich Putsch	15
Mussolini	23
Occult	03
Orator	19
Private Wealth	17
Psychological Profile	10
Stalin	25
Syphilis	02
Table Talk	29
Vengeance	09
Wagner	16
War	20
War Leader	06
World View	26

Inside the Reich

Anschluss; 'Blumenkrieg'	24
Art and Culture	06
Autobahn/VW	19
Axis	10
Berlin Olympics	23
Church and State	28
Corruption	29
Education	27
Führer Worship	14
Lebensborn: The Master Race	01
Führer Worship	14
German Opposition	20
Hitler Jugend 1	12
Hitler Jugend 2	21
Home Front	26
Kraft Durch Freude (KDF)	13
Ley's Workers (DAF)	09
Nazi Loot	22
Nazi Rituals	16
Nuremberg- Nazi Temple	25
Nuremberg Trials	32
Party Rallies	02
Party State	17
Propaganda	15
Rearmament	11
Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD)	04
SA: Rise of the Brownshirts	05
Sicherheitsdienst (SD)	18
SS State	07
Volksdeutsch	08
Volkssturm	32
War Economy	31
Women in the Reich	30

Hitler's Henchmen

Brandt, Karl	24
Bormann, Martin	11
Daluege, Kurt	26
Dietrich, 'Sepp'	15
Dönitz, Karl	14
Frank, Hans	16
Goebbels, Joseph	05
Göring, Hermann	03
Guderian, Heinz	17
Hess, Rudolf	10
Heydrich, Reinhard	02
Himmler, Heinrich	04
Kaltenbrunner, Ernst	27
Keitel & Jodl	12
Kesselring, Albert	22
Krupp Dynasty	21
Ley, Robert	29
Manstein, Erich von	31
Nuremberg Trials	32
Pétain & Laval	28
Reichenau, Walter von	19
Ribbentrop, Joachim von	09
Röhm, Ernst	08
Rommel, Erwin	07
Rosenberg, Alfred	20
Rundstedt, Gert von	30
Schirach, Baldur von	18
Seess-Inquart, Arthur	23
Speer, Albert	06
Streicher, Julius	13
Todd, Fritz	25

Nazi Horrors

Collaborators	19
Concentration Camps	07
Dachau: The First Camp	03
Death Marches	08
Dora-Mittelbau	28
Eugenics	14
Forms of Execution	13
Gestapo Terror	25
Gross Rosen	26
Medical Experiments	01
Lidke Massacre	12
Life in the Camps	22
Mauthausen	27
Night of the Long Knives	04
Non-Jewish Genocide	16
Nuremberg Trials	32
Occupation in the West	11
Occupation in the East	17
Partisans: War in the East	05
Prisoners of War	10
Rape of Poland	23
Running the Camps	20
Slave Labour	02
Warsaw Rising (1944)	09
What the Allies Knew	18

The Holocaust

Aktion Reinhard	21
Anti-Semitism in Action	08
Auschwitz 1	01
Auschwitz 2	02
Babi Yar	05
Belsen	06
Buchenwald	12
Camp Commanders	18
Camp Life	13
Camp Medicine	24
Deportations	14
Emigration	20
Einsatzgruppen	03
European Jewry	16
German Jews	31
Germans & the Holocaust	15
Ghettos - general	11
Holocaust in France	25
Holocaust in Romania	26
Jewish Resistance	29
Judenräte	27
Kovno Ghetto	21
Kristallnacht	04
Liberation	32
Majdanek	30
Nuremberg Race Laws	07
Ravensbrück	09
Sachsenhausen	22
Theresienstadt	10
Wannsee Conference	17
Warsaw Ghetto	19

Hitler's Battles

Arctic Convoys	26
Ardenne Offensive	28
Arnhem	27
Atlantic	09
Battle of Britain	05
Battle of the River Plate	02
Berlin	32
Crete	07
D-Day	23
Dodecanese 1943	21
France	04
Italy 1 - 1943/44	18
Italy 2 - 1944	22
Italy 3 - 1944/45	31
Maritime Air War	24
Mediterranean	10
Poland	01
Night Fighter War	20
Normandy Breakout	25
North Africa 1 - 1941	08
North Africa 2 - 1942	12
North Africa 3 - 1942/43	15
Norway and Low Countries	03
Race for the Reich	30
Reich Air Defence	13
Rhine & Oder	31
Russia 1 - 1941	11
Russia 2 - 1942	14
Russia 3: Stalingrad	16
Russia 4 - 1943	19
Russia 5 - 1944	29
U-Boat: Iron Coffins	17
Yugoslavia and Greece	06

War Machine

Anti-tank Guns	08
Blitzkrieg	29
Cruisers & Destroyers	11
Early Panzers	12
Fallschirmjäger	15
Focke-Wulf 190	20
Half-tracks	21
Heinkel 111	32
Infantry Support Weapons	24
Jets	14
Junkers 87: Stuka	03
Junkers 88	23
Kriegsmarine	05
Leibstandarte-SS	09
Light Flak	26
Luftwaffe	10
Luftwaffe Aces	27
Luftwaffe Ground Troops	25
MG34/42 Machine-Gun	04
Messerschmitt 109	06
Nebelwerfers	22
Night Fighters	28
Panzer VI: Tiger	02
Pistols & SMGs	13
Panzer IV	29
Panzer V: Panther	30
Railguns	07
Reconnaissance	31
S-Boats & Coastal Raiders	16
Special Forces	19
Tank Killers	18
U-Boat Wolfpacks	01
Vengeance Weapons	17
Volkssturm	32
Winter War	29

Nazi Symbols

Civilian Nazis	31
Daggers	24
Death's Head	01
Education	25
Foreign Legions	21
Foreign Nazis	29
German Army	17
Hitler as Icon	15
Hitler Youth	03
Infantry Equipment	19
Iron Cross	27
Luftwaffe	05
Medals & Orders: Part 1	07
Medals & Orders: Part 2	09
Nazi Eagle	10
Nazi Media	28
Nazi Porcelain	08
NSKK	12
Nuremberg Memories	14
Panzerwaffe	16
Party Art	23
Party Colours	04
Party Membership Badges	32
Reichsarbeitsdienst	20
SA Stormtroopers	02
Schutzstaffel Personalities	22
SD Security Services	30
SS Cuff Titles	18
SS Documents & Papers	13
SS-Polizei	11
SS: The Führer's Bodyguard	06
Swastika	26

IN THE FINAL VOLUME OF **HITLER'S** Third Reich



HITLER'S HENCHMEN

At Nuremberg the surviving Nazi leaders faced the justice of the civilised world. A line was drawn under Europe's new dark age.

SECRET HITLER FILES

The death of Germany's dictator retains a bizarre fascination. Hitler chose Berlin as his funeral pyre rather than live in defeat.

HITLER'S BATTLES

In April 1945, the awesome power of the Red Army was deployed to the full as it battered its way into the German capital, against an army of old men, boys, and desperate SS fanatics.



INSIDE THE THIRD REICH

By late 1944, Germany had reached the bottom of the barrel. Rather than surrender, Hitler bolstered his crumbling defences with the old and very young.

WAR MACHINE

The HE 111H was the definitive version of the Luftwaffe's standard bomber. In action throughout WWII it continued in service with Franco's airforce until the 1960s.